

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Gafford Is Delegate To Convention

Robert C. Gafford, president of United Americans for Conservative Government here and a partner in a radiator and electrical repair firm, defeated State Rep. Don Collins yesterday in a runoff for delegate to the Democratic National Convention.

With 364 boxes of 367 accounted for, Gafford had 35,324 votes to 29,244 for Collins.

Two alternate delegate spots also were in contest.

City Councilman Don Hawkins defeated Hubert Page 36,261 to 31,12 for alternate place No. 1 in the race for alternate No. 2. Joe Ingram defeated E. C. [redacted] 30,200.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEW

7  
THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-3-64  
Edition: FINALMRS. E. MILLS  
GAFFORD

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[redacted] file.  
RWS

157-352 SF 93

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

RWS

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# DYNAMITE TRIALS ARE PUT OFF

Trials for three Birmingham area men, charged with illegal possession of dynamite, were postponed two weeks Wednesday in Circuit Court over the strenuous objections of defense Attorney Matt H. Murphy Jr.

The defendants are Robert E. Chambliss, 59, of 2505 32nd Ave. North, and John W. Hall, 35, and Charles Cagle, 22, both of Gardendale.

"The very lives of these men are in danger as long as these cases are hanging fire," Murphy told Judge George Lewis Bailes in arguing against the continuances until June 16.

Murphy said the three men have been threatened through telephone calls.

Chambliss told Judge Bailes that an obscene card and a letter addressed to him from New York City were in the hands of postal authorities.

A long distance truck driver, Chambliss also said that one of the rear tires on his car had been slashed.

MURPHY SCORED an article in the current issue of Saturday Evening Post concerning the Birmingham bombings, terming it "judgment without trial" in its references to the three defendants.

Judge Bailes told Murphy he had "studiously avoided" reading the article.

The three cases came before Judge Bailes on appeal from Birmingham Recorders Court, where Recorder Earl Langner handed each defendant maximum punishment of a \$100 fine and 180 days in jail.

In asking the continuances Wednesday, Asst. City Atty. William C. Walker told Judge Bailes that he planned to place Hall on trial first, followed by Cagle and then Chambliss.

Several state investigators, headed by Public Safety Director Al Lingo, and Maj. William Jones, waited around court all day for the cases to be called.

THE DELAY WAS occasioned when a jury required an unusually long time in its consideration of a petit larceny appeal trial.

The city court convictions were returned after a trial which linked the three men to 133 sticks of dynamite found in an open case near Gardendale.

Two and one-half sticks of dynamite were found in a paper sack nearby.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**2****THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS****THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD****BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**Date: **6-4-64**Edition: **RED STAR FINAL**

Author:

Editor: **JOHN W. BLOOMER**Title: **ROBERT E. CHAMBLISS****S, JOHN W. HALL, CHARLES****CAGLE**Character: **RM**

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

 Being Investigated**BIRMINGHAM**

*CCB*

*157-352-5F1-94*

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 5 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

*34*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Bombed Negro Church Is Reopened

Members of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church went back to their church home yesterday, for the first time since the Sept. 15 bomb blast that shattered part of the sanctuary and Sunday School rooms and killed four little girls, the congregation worshiped in their rebuilt church.

Sarah Collins, whose sister, Addie Mae, died in the blast, was among the several hundred who marched into the church in quiet procession.

~~Sarah herself~~ spent months at University Hospital while ~~six~~ ~~one~~ fought to save ~~some~~ of her sight from the effects of shattered glass.

Claude Wesley sang too. Beside him was Shirley, who "We were happy to be going to be taken into the home in," said Parrish yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley to fill day, "but it was the kind of loneliness that happiness that was close to us been there since their tears. There was a sadness daughter, Cynthia Diane, was in it even as we sang."

Wilson was in the congregation. "Her mother has been kind to us yesterday, as was Mrs. enough to let her live with us Greer and Mrs. Phillips.

and we'll see about adoption," Rev. Cross assembled the congregation yesterday in a

"A deacon in the church, Wesley is principal of Lewis Elementary School.

"The church looks very different. The wood paneling is much lighter," said Wesley. "It looked like a different church inside. That helped me go back."

Mrs. Alvin Robertson, mother of Carol, who lost her life at Sunday school last September, was in the hospital and unable to attend.

Mr. and Mrs. Chris McNair have an illness in their family, too.

Their only child, Denise, was killed in the explosion that took the lives of Addie Mae, Carol, and Cynthia. They are expecting another child later this year.

Since the bomb blast, members of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church have held Sunday services in L. R. Hall Auditorium of A. G. Gaston Building.

Re-dedication of the rebuilt church will be sometime in August, said Joseph E. Parrish, chairman of the board of trustees. Enough of the repair work has been completed to hold services in the church from now on, he said.

On Sept. 15, Parrish had stood at the hospital emergency room unmindful of his own head wound, to help still-stunned members of the congregation.

He was with Mrs. Clevon Phillips, Sunday school teacher who had taught a lesson on love minutes before the blast, or sight from the effects of Deacon B. H. Wilson Sr., and Mrs. Mamie H. Greer, Sunday school superintendent.

Wilson was in the congregation. "We were happy to be going to be taken into the home in," said Parrish yesterday. Mr. and Mrs. Wesley to fill day, "but it was the kind of loneliness that happiness that was close to us been there since their tears. There was a sadness daughter, Cynthia Diane, was in it even as we sang."

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"The church looks very different. The wood paneling is much lighter," said Wesley. "It looked like a different church inside. That helped me go back."

Sunday school services for children were held in the basement where the tragedy occurred. Two church workers, Miss Mabel Bibb and Mrs. Rosetta Young, were in the basement when the bomb exploded. They were back at their desks yesterday.

A white clergyman, Dr. H. O. Hester, secretary of the Department of Missions, Alabama Baptist State Convention, was guest speaker at the service. A Baptist Mission Center, now moved to larger quarters in Ensley, long occupied quarters at Sixteenth Street Church.

Architect Stanley B. Echois, who planned the church renovation after the blast, was introduced to the congregation.

During services there were only a few references to the bombing. The Rev. Cross said a new Bible had been donated to the church.

"This Bible," he said, "was given us in recognition of the tragedy that happened here."

At another point he admonished the congregation "not to look back in revengeful ways, but with love in our hearts."

More than \$200,000 has been sent to the church from all parts of the world. Parrish said some of the money was earmarked for survivors of the children killed. Some has been used to repair and remodel the church. And some has been put into an educational scholarship fund to be administered by a special church committee.

A blind soloist, Miss Eleanor Smith of Atlanta, sang yesterday "His Eye Is on the Sparrow." In this hymn, there is the line, "I sing because I am happy, I sing because I'm free."

"Yes, yes," softly murmured the congregation.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

4 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-8-64  
 Edition: FINAL  
 Author:  
 Editor: JAMES E. MILLS  
 Title: BAPRONE

Character: RM  
 or  
 Classification: BIRMINGHAM  
 Submitting Office:

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-95

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 8 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**MEMBERS MOVE INTO RENOVATED SIXTEENTH STREET BAPTIST CHURCH**  
 First services since church was bombed were held Sunday.

# Doors of church open first time since bomb

Sixteenth Street Baptist. The Negro church in the downtown area held regular worship services for the first time since it was bombed last Friday by the Rev. John H. Cross, pastor.

Dr. H. O. Hester, secretary of missions to special groups of the Alabama State Baptist Convention, spoke from Revelation 21 which reads: "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth."

DR. HESTER said that out of this text come the ways and means of developing a blueprint of the new earth.

"The new earth will come only as we follow the strategy of Christ," Dr. Hester said.

HESTER TOLD the congregation that on the day of the bombing he wrote to the families of four girls who were killed in the blast. Victims of the unsolved explosion were Carol Robertson, 14, Denise McNair, 11, Addie Mae Collins, 14, and Cynthia Wesley, 14.

The congregation gathered outside the church before the services, where the message board still carries the date, Sept. 15. Then Cross led them into the sanctuary for the first time in nine months. Some wept. Some smiled. Some embraced.

Fourteen persons were baptised. Sunday School was held in the basement rooms where the young children died.

CROSS SAID the church was rebuilt with offerings from around the world totalling more than \$200,000. A memorial window depicting "the suffering servant" is yet to arrive from Wales, he said.

Stanley B. Echols of Birmingham, the architect who renovated the church, was introduced to the congregation. Two white newsmen received a warm welcome.

Cross said contributions came from Australia, England, Nigeria, West Africa, Canada and Wales, as well as throughout the

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS**

2

**THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD****BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA**

Date 9-6-64  
 Edition KID STAR FINAL  
 Author  
 Subject JOHN W. BLOOMER  
 File # BOMB

Editor RM  
 Title  
 Classification  
 Submitting Office  
 Being Investigated

FD-350 (Rev. 7-16-63)

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## Post's Bomb Suspect An Atlantan?

ATLANTA, June 19. — A suburban Atlantan with a history of racism is the suspect referred to in a national magazine article about the Birmingham church bombing as "selective socialists."

Capt. R. F. Little, head of a special security squad, did not identify the man but said he individual in question, Post refers to, "is in the metropolitan area" and has a history of racism.

The FBI declined comment. The Saturday Evening Post in a recent article said authorities know identity of a bomber but lack sufficient evidence for a conviction. Four Negro men were killed in the bombing of a Birmingham church last September.

Editorial page editor of the Post, Birmingham, Alabama

THE BIRMINGHAM NEW

4 THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Case 0-11-64  
Edition FINAL  
Author  
Title JAMES E. MILLS  
Type B APBOMB

Entered RM

Classification

Submitting Office 157-357-SF1-77  
Date dictated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 11 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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*PBM*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

Page # 2

*157-352-571*

## Probation Hearing In Blasts Put Off

A probation hearing scheduled today for James T. Maxwell of Tuscaloosa, under sentence in connection with setting off dynamite near the University of Alabama campus, has been continued until Sept. 24, Circuit Solicitor Fred Nicol said.

The hearing will be held before Circuit Judge Reuben Wright.

Maxwell entered a plea of guilty to charges of setting off dynamite and was sentenced to two years in prison in a settlement agreement entered on the court record several weeks ago.

Two other defendants in the case, James Perkins of Tuscaloosa and Charles Holifield of Marion, are scheduled to be tried here Monday.

TUSCALOOSA NEWS  
TUSCALOOSA, ALA.

Date: 6/5/64

Edition:

Author:

Editor: NORMAN BASSETT

Title:

JAMES T. PERKINS  
ET AL

Character: RM

or 157-611

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

157-352-571-98

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 8 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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# Cagle Is Cleared In Dynamite Case

BY BILL MOBLEY

The case of a 23-year-old klansman charged with the possession of dynamite was dismissed yesterday by Judge Elias C. Watson before it got to a jury in Circuit Court.

Charles A. Cagle, 1305 Vanderbilt rd, was released in his appeal from the Birmingham Recorder's Court, where he was fined \$100 and costs and sentenced to 180 days in jail. The trial was held before Judge Earl Langner on Oct. 9.

Cagle, John Wesley Hall, Garlandale; and Robert E. Chambliss, 2505 32nd-av, n, were arrested on Sept. 20 by State Troopers. The arrests climaxed extensive investigation by Birmingham, FBI and the state officers into the series of bombings in Birmingham including the one of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in which four Negro girls were killed.

Lingo testified that when he saw Cagle at City Jail, Cagle told him he had been wanting to tell him all he knew about the circumstances. He said Cagle told him he had been harrassed by the FBI agents

While in City Jail, Cagle made certain statements which were oral times and had failed to related yesterday by Capt. Rob- ert Godwin and State Public Safety Director Al Lingo.

No testimony was presented by the state to show where

Godwin read the statement to Cagle ever touched the dynamite purportedly signed by note, or had it in his posse- Cagle, in which he told of a sion in any way.

case of dynamite which was taken from the trunk of Cham- Lingo revealed how Cagle guid-bliss' car and put into a car ed them to the place where the driven by Hall.

In the statement, Cagle said Hall requested him to follow him.

his car from a Ku Klux Klan meeting to pick up "something" Fire Marshal A. Rosenthal, Chambliss wanted to get rid chief of fire prevention in Bir- of." He said he stopped at the Chambliss home in North Bir- mingham and watched Hall get something from the trunk of Cagle or Hall during the past Chambliss' car and put into four years.

However, after the state was dynamite. He said he car- ducing evidence to show that ried Hall to a spot beyond Gar- Cagle ever possessed the explosive in the City of Bir- dendale, on Mockingbird-Ln, plesive where the case of dynamite was ham, Defense Atty. Matt Murphy asked for a dismissal.

According to Cagle's state- ment, Hall got worried and motion in the absence of the asked Cagle to get someone to jury but explained to the mem- move the explosive. He said he bers why he had done so, when told a friend where it was and they returned to the courtroom. asked him to move it. He said that since the City of

Birmingham, in its original complaint had charged Cagle with having in his possession dynamite without a permit from the city, and then having failed to introduce evidence to substantiate the charges, he was doing his duty as a judge to grant the motion.

Judge Watson set the case of Chambliss for 9 a.m. today but Lingo said they could not go into the Hall case because Capt. Willie B. Painter is a key witness in the case. He is with the security force accompanying Gov. George Wallace in Dallas and will not be available until Monday.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 6-16-64  
Edition: RED STAR FINALAuthor:  
Editor: John W. Bloomer  
Title: Charles Cagle,  
Robert E. Chambliss  
And John Hall  
Character: Bapbom  
or RMClassification:  
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

757-352-5F1-99

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUN 18 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

67C



**RELEASED** — Charles Cagle, 22, (at left), was released yesterday after charges of illegal possession of dynamite were dismissed against him. Two other men face the same charge. Seated from left are Robert E. Chambliss, 59, of Birmingham and John Hall of Gardendale, who are charged with possession of the dynamite. Standing is Matt Murphy Jr., their lawyer. All three men were convicted of the dynamite charge in Birmingham Recorder's Court. Judge George Lewis Bailes threw out the case against Cagle yesterday.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Wiretappers busy, Wallace tells Center Point audience

BY JOE CAMPBELL

News staff writer

Gov. George C. Wallace told a crowd estimated at 7,000 in Center Point Saturday night that "there's no telling how many telephones have been tapped in Jefferson County and elsewhere in Alabama."

He said State Public Safety Director Al Lingo informed him just before his speech that four telephones had been found tapped thus far in Jefferson County.

Without indicating who the wiretappers might be, Wallace said "We know the Justice Department spends \$20 million a year on wire-tapping equipment."

WALLACE, WHO said the state is not tapping telephones, declared, "We believe people ought to have the right of privacy protected."

Wallace's speech climaxed the three-day "Center Point Days" trade promotion sponsored by Center Point Chamber of Commerce.

He crowned the winner of the "Miss Center Point" title, Pam Torek, 14, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Torek. Winner of second place in the contest was Pat Hubbard. Geneva Liner placed third.

Wallace told the enthusiastic gathering, "There will be a junior college in your area by September of next year."

He said he will attempt to get the special session of the Legislature to appropriate more funds for the junior college so as to build a school twice the size as originally planned.

Wallace said the larger school

would be needed because a large enrollment is anticipated.

Touching on his presidential primary campaigns in Wisconsin, Indiana and Maryland, Wallace said people throughout the nation are beginning to awaken to the trends which are taking away individual rights.

"In your lifetime," he said, "there has never been a national convention, by either party, which has been concerned about the South."

BUT, HE SAID, "they know now that the way the people of the South vote in this election will determine who the President will be."

Attacking the Civil Rights Act, Wallace said the measure has taken over every city, state and county government in the nation, labor unions and businesses.

Wallace said his reply to liberals who say "If you are not going to conform you will not get industry" is that last year Alabama gained \$344 million in new and expanded industry and is still gaining it this year.

The governor said he had talked with 100 top industrial leaders throughout the nation. "Not one of them said he was in favor of the civil rights bill," he declared.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-15-64

Edition:

Author: JOE CAMPBELL

Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMFIELD

Title: BAPBOM 3: RL

WIRETAPPING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

157-352-551-10

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 17 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Piny, sensitive bugs make treasured privacy extinct

**By BUD GORDON**

News staff writer  
Privacy — like the whooping crane — is fast becoming extinct in the U.S.

Even in Alabama, the long-treasured freedom of secret speech and action is vanishing, imposed by electronic "eavesdropping" devices, and super cameras which can take pictures in the dark.

Three miniature electronic devices for monitoring telephone conversations have been found in Alabama during the past month, according to Public Safety Director Al Lingo.

One such device was found last Thursday, attached to the telephone wire in a Birmingham home. Another was located in a Birmingham home about three weeks ago. Still another was located on the telephone of Miss Sybil Poole, member of the Alabama Public Service Commission.

In all three cases, the devices were tiny, self powered short wave radios, capable of broadcasting phone conversations several blocks away to a receiver.

All three devices were ingeniously constructed at a cost from \$150 to \$250. They were cleverly concealed.

ALTHOUGH THE state has "a good suspect," persons who installed these electronic bugs are not known. Tracing the instruments, according to Lingo, is almost impossible.

Manufactured in Miami and San Francisco, the bugs bear no manufacturer's label. A few, Lingo said, are being made right here in Alabama by skilled electronic technicians.

A few years ago, tapping a phone wire was a major project beyond the capabilities of ordinary agencies — private or public. But recent strides in miniaturized electronic devices using tiny transistors instead of tubes has brought the wiretapper's art within the reach of the ordinary investigator or espionage agent.

Time Magazine recently revealed the federal government buys some \$20 million of telephone bugging devices a year. Many of these bugs are used by federal officials on their own phones to record conversations in secrecy.

Most expensive among the bugs is the tiny transmitter. Some of these are no larger than a lump of sugar and many are smaller than a pack of cigarettes.

Most popular is the simple induction coil, which picks up both ends of a phone conversation.

A FEW ULTRA-sophisticated bugs can perform their spycrafts without being connected to a phone. The only limit to the size of the instrument is battery power. Experts predict nuclear power will further reduce their size.

Atty. Gen. Robert Kennedy put a bill before Congress in 1962, which would permit federal authorities, under orders of the Attorney General, to wiretap, with a court order.

In certain situations — such as espionage, subversion, murder, kidnapping, interstate racketeering and narcotics — wiretapping would be legal, and would yield legal court evidence.

In espionage, the Attorney General could sidestep the court, if he thought asking for a court order would endanger the national interest.

Under the bill, all other forms of wiretapping would be prohibited and punishable by a \$10,000 fine or two years in federal prison.

But, the bill has met opposi-

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

38

THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALDBIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-16-64  
Edition: SUNDAY  
Author: BUD GORDON  
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER  
Title: BAPBOMB;  
Re: WIRETAPPING

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

157-352-SFT 101

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
AUG 17 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

tion and has failed to pass in the two years it has been pending. In present federal wiretap laws, there are as many interpretations as there are courts and judges. Some judges hold wiretapping a crime in itself, while others hold it illegal only if the intercepted messages are disclosed.

ALABAMA, LIKE 32 other states, has laws making wiretapping a crime punishable by heavy fines and jail sentences. Under Title 48, Sections 415 and 416, of the Alabama Code, wiretapping or interfering with telephone communication is a misdemeanor punishable by a \$500 fine or six months in jail, or both.

Eleven states have no laws at all governing wiretapping or recorded telephone conversations. Six states permit wiretapping — but confine its legal use mainly to law enforcement.

The threat to privacy is by no means limited to monitored phone conversations.

A child can order through the mail a \$15 device which magnifies sound and can pick up a conversation in a room across the street.

For \$17.90, anyone can have an instrument which "taps" a telephone without touching a wire.

For \$150, a budding spy can buy a television camera which can scan a room in complete secrecy and transmit pictures, with sound, to a hidden receiver several blocks away.

PRIVATE DETECTIVES conceal microphones, some with built-in transmitters, in hatsbands, wrist watches or tie clasps. Microphones, no larger than a button, feed conversations to a recorder concealed on the detective's person, then relays it to a receiver several blocks away.

Tiny transmitters can be installed in rooms, offices and even automobiles. They are powerful enough to send conversations several blocks to several miles.

Even executives have reached the point where they fidget if a visitor even so much as sets a briefcase or purse near them.

Although it is extremely dif-

ficult, most telephone bugging devices can be detected.

Lingo said there is no special equipment for revealing the presence of a bug, but added the devices can and often do betray themselves.

In all the three cases here in Alabama, the bugs malfunctioned and caused trouble on the telephone lines. In Miss Poole's case, there was a buzzing on the line even after a number had been dialed.

The two bugs installed in Birmingham homes caused other conversations to "leak" through. In other words, the user of the bugged phone, could hear other people talking while they tried to carry on their own conversations.

Sometimes, a malfunctioning bug will cause interrupted dialing or other oddities in the phone's operation.

A PERSON WHO suspects his phone has been tapped can easily relieve his mind by asking the telephone company to check his line. If the repairman finds a "voltage drop" on the line, it is almost certain the phone is being tapped somehow.

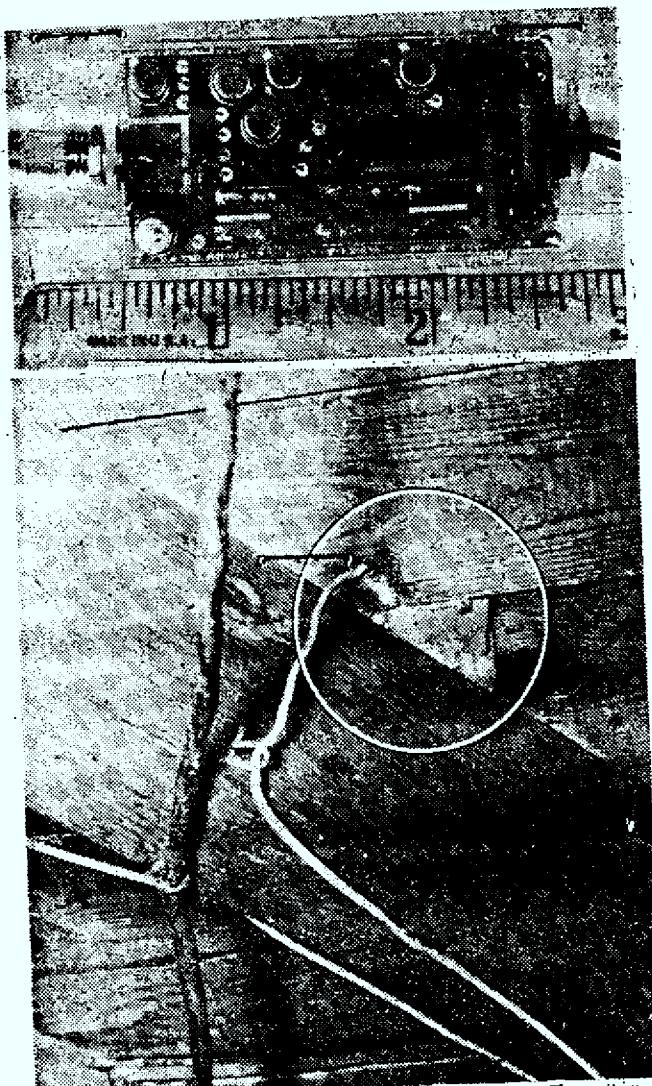
All bugs aren't detectable however. For example anyone can be recorded by the person on the other end of the line without detection.

Anyone suspecting his conversation is being recorded, can foul the recording by simply tapping the mouthpiece of the phone with a pencil or other objects during the conversation. The noise will magnify and blot out parts of the conversation.

Similar results can be obtained by other noises in the room, such as music, a loud television or even running water. Devices for recording telephone conversations are extremely sensitive and will magnify the slightest noise.

ABOVE ALL, Col. Lingo warned, make sure the man who comes to check for termites or to check your phone is who he says he is. Ask for credentials. If he has none, check with his office. Don't let unidentified people in your home. There was a time when secret

information was filched with the use of liquor, women and mail interception. That time is long past. Today it's done far more scientifically and forms a far greater threat to freedom of privacy than ever before.



## 'Bugs' in Birmingham home

This tiny transmitter (top photo) was found attached to the telephone wire in the home of a private citizen in Birmingham. The miniature device is transistorized, has its own power supply and measures about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  by 1 inches. It is tuned to a certain frequency and is capable of transmitting both ends of a telephone conversation several blocks. Photo below shows how the transmitter was installed in the Birmingham home. Someone entered the basement, connected the device, then concealed it with insulation. This particular bug cost between \$150 and \$250.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Forgiveness urged in rededication of bombed church

"We rededicate it to the service of God and of man," said the Rev. John H. Cross, pastor of the 16th Street Baptist Church, which was bombed last Sept. 15. Urging his congregation to forgive those responsible for the dynamite blast which killed four Negro girls, the Negro minister spoke at rededication ceremonies for the renovated church building Sunday.

Denise McNair, 11, Carol R. Robertson, 14, Cynthia Wesley, 14, and Addie Mae Collins, lost their lives in the bombing.

"I HAVE RECEIVED many letters asking, How can you preach love when you have had the most hideous thing done to you?" Cross told his congregation.

"We must follow the example of Jesus Christ," he said in answer to the question. "When Christ was put on the cross, it appeared all the good, all the truth had been eradicated. Hatred was rampant. Love was buried—buried for all time."

"But then Jesus said, 'My God, My God' and then he said 'Father forgive them, forgive them, for they know not what they do.'"

SERVICES were resumed in the church about two months ago, after approximately \$200,000 in repairs had been completed.

Only a fifth of the loss was covered by insurance. The rest of the funds were furnished by donations.

The main speaker at the dedication ceremonies was the Rev. Alex B. James, dean of religion and vice president of Virginia Union University.

He mentioned the bombing only briefly, saying, "It's hard enough on some of the people now. They don't want the

bad memories coming back to them."

HE ADDED that he was proud to see that the bombing had not made the congregation fearful, saying the church must be "militant."

Rewards totaling more than \$70,000 have been posted for information leading to arrest and conviction of those responsible for the bombing.

Negroes battled police for an hour in Birmingham after the blast occurred. Scattered racial incidents across the city throughout the day and night claimed the lives of two more Negro youths. Scores of persons were hurt.

Negroes used the church as headquarters for massive civil rights demonstrations during the spring of 1963.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**21** THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 8-31-64

Edition: LATE FINAL

Author:

Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER

Title: REDEDICATION OF  
16ST BAPTIST CHURCH,  
BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Character: RM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office:

BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-5FL2

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP - 1 1964	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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tcB*

*[Signature]*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Memorial rites held for bomb victims

BY GERALDINE MOORE

"If we do not stand against evil and for good, we will be engulfed by evil."

"Our need is for new life. We need love, hope and faith to enter into us to give us new life."

This was the message of Edward Harris during a special service at the Unitarian Church Tuesday night memorializing the deaths of Denise McNair, Carol Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Collins, in the 16th Street Baptist Church bombing last Sept. 15. Also included in the memorial service were James Robinson and Virgil Ware, two other children whose deaths were attributed indirectly to the bombing.

"WE HAD BEEN waiting for number of years for this bombing to happen. We had been waiting with our silence. We had endured the castration of Judge Aaron and one bombing right after another," Harris said.

He also referred to slavery as the beginning of it all, and made a fervent plea that we will "search our hearts and resolve that we shall never again approve those things which gave rise to this terrible incident of Sept. 15, 1963."

The Rev. Lawrence E. McGinty, who gave selected readings from the Scriptures, made these remarks: "There is only one man in the world, and that man's name is 'all men.' There is only one woman in the world, and her name is 'all women.' There is only one child in the world, and that child's name is 'all children'."

MUSIC WAS provided by the choir of the church and by a female quartet under the direction of Mrs. Ruth Crowell, teacher at Wilkerson Elementary School.

The program was closed with prayer led by Harris, after which the audience joined in the singing of "America the Beautiful."

The Rev. McGinty is minister of the church. Harris was in charge of the program. Relatives and friends of the deceased attended.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

38 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-64  
 Edition: LATE FINAL  
 Author: GERALDINE MOORE  
 Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER  
 Title: BAPOMB

Character: BOMBING MATTERS  
 or  
 Classification: BH #157-352  
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM  
 Being Investigated

157-352-BH-103

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 2 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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*kind*

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Lingo Hints He Knows Identity Of Bomber

BY SID GOLDSTEIN

Albert J. Lingo, head of the Alabama Highway Patrol, said here yesterday he thinks he knows who bombed Sixteenth Street Baptist Church last year. But he said it "will interfere with our investigation" to divulge the identity of the suspect or anything about him.

Lingo made the remarks at a luncheon meeting of Birmingham's Business and Professional Men's Assn., following a talk in which he spoke against liberalism, centralized government, and "the pink press."

The state public safety director was asked whether he knew who was responsible for the September, 1963, church bombing that killed four Negro girls, and whether his suspect was a white man or a Negro.

**Refuses Further Comment**

"I personally think I know who did it," Lingo said, but declined to give any information leading to the suspect's identity.

He refused to say whether the suspect is Negro or white. He said there is not enough evidence to warrant a prosecution.

Lingo asked whether he suspects the same person whose

identity was hinted at in a Saturday Evening Post article earlier this year, answered:

"I don't know who they suspect. In fact, I don't care."

Lingo's speech included vigorous praise of Gov. George Wallace for his forays into the North. He compared the governor's travels to those of a famous character in the American Revolution.

"At a time when the cause of Americanism was leaderless and rudderless," he said of Wallace, "a Paul Revere rode across this nation. And I have bad news for the Communists and the pinks and the liberals. He is scheduled to ride again."

Lingo also was asked about the prospect of more civil rights demonstrations in Alabama. He said there were rumors of some this past Summer that did not materialize.

"I'm ready for them if they come," he said.

He talked about law enforcement tactics in answer to other questions. "You've seen the liberal magazines accusing us of having a police state at this time," he said. "But we're doing no more than any other state's doing."

Lingo said his men have been charged with police brutality but he said "we only take necessary action."

"Can you placate a mob without force?" he was asked from the audience. "No sir," he answered, "you can not."

Lingo told his audience that he started as a patrolman when the state organization was established as the Highway Patrol in 1935.

"A lot of people say, 'What does he know about law enforcement?'" Lingo said. "But I'm a charter member."

"America's national purpose has been changed from the divine goal of man's individual and spiritual growth toward freedom," Lingo said, "to the base slavery of the equality doctrine, forced and enforced by a growing central government," Lingo said.

"Through a system of award and reward," he said, "the left-wingers have built an awesome control over the news, entertainment, and educational media."

"Only those writers who preach equality and environment receive the awards. Only those movies, only those educators, only those news commentators are rewarded with prestige and gain—until the full impact of the absurdities were brought home with the crowning stupidity of the Nobel Prize to a Martin Luther King."

His references to "equality" and "environment" were "to what he said are doctrines of Communism. "There are two primary Communist doctrines," he said. "One is based on equality, the other on environment." He said the equality doctrine is used to justify an "all-powerful central government" and the environment doctrine is based on the belief that "men is matter—nothing else."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BIRMINGHAM POST  
ALABAMA  
MONDAY NOVEMBER 11, 1964

Date: 11-11-64  
Edition: 11-11-64  
Author: SID GOLDSTEIN  
Editor: JAMES L. MELLON  
Title: ALBERT J. LINGO

Character: P.D.  
or

Classification: 157-352  
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM  
 Being Investigated

157-352-571-154

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 12 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI Says Kluxmen Were Church Bombers Patrol Criticized For Early Arrests

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25 (UPI)—"A small group of Klansmen" is believed responsible for a church bombing in Birmingham which killed four Negro girls, the FBI said today.

But, said the FBI, there was insufficient evidence to assure a conviction and the Alabama Highway Patrol "prejudiced" the investigation with premature arrests.

The church was bombed Sept. 15, 1963. It was filled with Sunday School children at the time.

"This investigation was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol," the FBI said. "Consequently, it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions that would assure successful prosecution."

The FBI said it had "identified a small group of Klansmen believed to be responsible."

#### Answers King's Charges

The statement was issued in a report following charges made by the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., winner of the Nobel Peace Prize. King said the FBI has not done its best at all times to protect civil rights workers.

State troopers arrested three men shortly after Gov. George Wallace's office ~~announced~~ the Highway Patrol had found evidence that would solve a series of bombings in Birmingham.

The men, Charles Cagle, R. E. Chambliss and John Hall, were charged only with illegal possession of dynamite. They were convicted in Birmingham Recorder's Court but appealed and were found innocent in circuit court.

The church was the scene of many civil rights meetings during the Spring and Summer of 1963 when mass demonstrations were staged in Birmingham.

The bombing was the last and most serious one in a long series of racially-connected attacks on a motel and the homes and churches of Negroes.

The FBI report also said today it knows who killed the three young civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., last summer.

#### Probing Continues

"Intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as quickly as possible," an FBI spokesman said.

Acting Atty. Gen. Nicholas Katzenbach has said previously that Mississippians refusing to come forward and testify have prevented arrests in the slayings.

The three killed last June were Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York; Michael Schwerner, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y., and a

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

THE BIRMINGHAM  
1 POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 11-26-64  
Edition: FINALAuthor: JAMES E. MILLS  
Editor: BOMBING OF SIX-  
TEENTH ST. BAPTIST CHU-  
RCH. -9-15-63

Character: RM

or  
Classification: BR #157-352  
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM Being Investigated

157-352-5F1-103

NOV 27 1964

Negro, James Chaney, 21, of Meridian, Miss.

Their bodies were found in a deep grave near Philadelphia about two months after they were last seen alive. They had been shot.

Today was the first time the FBI officially admitted it knew the identities of the slayers.

The FBI spokesman said:

"The FBI launched a massive investigation following the disappearance of the three civil rights workers in the vicinity of Philadelphia, Miss., on June 21, 1964. The FBI located their bodies in an earthen dam and has developed information identifying those responsible."

#### King Sends Telegram

King had cited the lack of arrests in the Philadelphia and Birmingham killings in a telegram to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover. King said those and other incidents showed inadequate FBI protection for Negroes in the South.

King sent the telegram in reply to Hoover's charges that King was the "most notorious liar in the country" for saying the FBI refused to act in Southern civil rights cases because agents were Southerners.

In his telegram to Hoover, King also charged that no arrests had been made as a result of brutalities to Negroes participating in mass civil rights meetings in Albany, Ga., during the Summer of 1963.

Replying to King's statement, the FBI spokesman conceded no arrests had been made. But

he added that the FBI had submitted to the Justice Dept. the results of investigations of the Albany, Ga. complaints.

"The Department of Justice did not believe there were grounds to prosecute any of the incidents arising out of these demonstrations," the spokesman said.

Sources said Hoover has received 2000 letters and other communications about his exchange with King. Only about 10 were critical of Hoover, the source said.

#### Complains to LBJ

Ten Negro leaders officially presented King's complaint about the FBI to President Johnson at the White House last week.

The FBI spokesman also listed FBI accomplishments in the field of civil rights in the South. They included:

—Arrest of Deputy Marshal Denver E. Short Jr., in Sasser Ga., 20 miles from Albany on charges that he cursed voter registration workers and fired his gun at the tires of their cars. Short was acquitted by a district jury in Georgia, Jan. 25, 1963.

—Arrest of four white men who were charged with burning the Mount Hope Negro Baptist Church near Dawson, Ga., Oct. 17, 1962. Three of the men were sentenced to seven years in

prison and the fourth a juvenile, was put on three years probation.

—Arrest of two white men on charges in connection with the burning of the Shady Grove Baptist Church near Leesburg, Ga., Nov. 4, 1962. Grand juries refused to indict the men.

—Investigations leading to 11 arrests in McComb, Miss., on state charges involving bombing and other violence.

—Seven arrests in Natchez, Miss., on state charges in shootings and beatings.

—Seven arrests for racial violence in Pike County, Miss.

—Five arrests of present and former law enforcement officers in Neshoba County, Miss., on charges of police brutality.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# FBI knows bombers and rights killers

The FBI says it still lacks sufficient evidence to get a conviction of Klansmen whom they say bombed the 16th Street Baptist Church here last fall killing four small Negro girls.

The agency also said in Washington it knows who killed the three young civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss., last summer.

In a statement from Washington a spokesman for the FBI was quoted as saying "a small group of Klansmen" is believed to be responsible for the church bombing but there is insufficient evidence to make any arrests.

AT THE SAME TIME the agency was highly critical of the Alabama State Troopers whom they said "prejudiced" the investigation with premature arrests.

The church was bombed on Sept. 15, 1963. The four girls were among hundreds attending Sunday School when the blast ripped through the structure.

In its statement, the FBI said, "this investigation was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol. Consequently it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions to assure successful prosecution."

State Troopers arrested three men shortly after Gov. George Wallace announced evidence had been found that would solve the series of bombings in Birmingham.

CHARLES CAGLE, R. E. Chambliss and John Haff were

charged with illegal possession of dynamite. They were convicted in Recorders Court but appealed and were found innocent in Circuit Court.

The church was the scene of many civil rights demonstrations in the spring and summer of 1963.

The bombing was the last and most serious one in a long series of racially connected attacks on a motel and the homes and churches of Negroes.

IN CONNECTION with the Philadelphia, Miss., case, the FBI spokesman said "intensive investigation is continuing to develop the case for prosecution as quickly as possible."

The three civil rights workers killed last June were Andrew Goodman, 20, of New York; Michael Schwerner, 24, of Brooklyn, N. Y. and a Negro, James Chaney, 21, of Meridian, Miss.

Their bodies were found in a deep grave near Philadelphia two months after they were last seen alive. They had been shot.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 11-26-64  
Edition: Holiday

Author:

Editor:

Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

152-352-5F1-106

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED

NOV 29 1964

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Still seeking evidence FBI believes bombers, kidnap-killers known

The FBI believes it has identified the killers of four children in a Birmingham Negro church bombing last year and the slayers of three civil rights workers in Mississippi, an FBI spokesman said in Washington today.

A spokesman said the agency is trying to gather enough evidence to go to court in both cases.

The statement came as the FBI defended itself against charges that the bureau is ineffective in civil rights cases. The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was bombed while Sunday School services were being conducted there on Sept. 15, 1963.

THE CIVIL rights workers disappeared after being arrested on a traffic charge at Philadelphia last June 21 and released on bond. Their bodies were found in a dam Aug. 4.

The bombing victims were Carole Robertson, 16; Carol Denise McNair, 11; Addie Mae Collins and Cynthia Dianne Wesley, both 14. No arrests have been made in the case.

The three civil rights workers were Michael Schwerner, 24, and Andrew Goodman, 20, both

New York residents, and James Chaney, 21, a Meridian, Miss., Negro.

They had driven to Neshoba County from Meridian to investigate a church fire on the day they were arrested.

SCORES OF FBI agents joined state and local officers in the search for the killers. Some Mississippi officers claimed that the FBI withheld information from them.

A federal grand jury at Biloxi, Miss., investigated the deaths of the three men but did not return any indictments.

Two indictments were returned charging five law officers, including Neshoba Sheriff Lawrence Rainey, with denying Negroes their civil rights by arresting and beating them during a period beginning in 1960.

Rewards for the Birmingham bomber or bombers rose to \$70,000. Col. Al Lingo, state public safety director, predicted that the size of the reward eventually will crack the case.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

1

THE BIRMINGHAM  
POST HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 11-25-64  
Edition: LATE FINAL

Author:  
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER  
Title:

Character:

or

Classification:

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-107

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
NOV 27 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Bomb reward near deadline

BY GEORGE BIGLERS III  
News staff writerIf almost \$80,000 in reward  
money can't help unravel thiscity's grim history of racial  
bombings, including one that  
murdered four Sunday School  
children last year—what will?  
The money, over \$77,000  
handed up by local citizens to  
pay informants, has been available  
more than a year. But there have been no takers.After Dec. 31, the reward  
won't be collectible. And this  
comes as a blow to investigators  
who had hoped it would make  
somebody talk.**Set deadline**OF THE AMOUNT, \$15,000  
had been offered for information  
leading to the arrest and conviction  
of the person or persons responsible  
for the bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church.Under terms of a resolution  
adopted by the Birmingham  
City Council, trustees holding  
the money may pay rewards  
in amounts they deem advisable  
for information concerning  
other bombings which occurred  
after April 15 of last  
year.However, no reward can be paid  
after Dec. 31 of this year—the time set by the City Council  
for the bombing reward to be dissolved.Gov. George Wallace put \$10,000 into the fund on behalf of  
the state. Whether this amount  
will remain available is not known.ACCORDING TO Dr. John  
Buchanan, one of three trustees appointed by the Council, only about \$1,500 of the fund is in cash. The remainder is in the form of pledges.The FBI has announced that  
the case of the 16th Street BaptistChurch is as good as cracked.  
It has been for some time.

The guilty persons cannot be arrested because the one thing needed for convictions is missing—testimony that would convince a jury.

The church bombing was next to the last in a long series of dynamitings in Birmingham over the years. It is estimated that a total of 22, including the church bombing, remain unsolved.

After the church bombing, the FBI launched what it called the "biggest manhunt since the Dillinger case." City and county authorities joined the federal agency and began piping information to it.

**Separate probe**

THE STATE police, acting under orders of Director Al Lingo, began a separate investigation which subsequently led to the arrest of three men. They were not charged with the bombing, but with illegal possession of dynamite.

The trio was convicted in City Recorders Court, but appealed and later were found not guilty in Circuit Court.

When the state made its arrests, there was no notification of any kind given the other investigative agencies. And since that time, there has been no official communication between Lingo and the FBI.

In a statement from Washington a week ago, the FBI said the investigation "was prejudiced by premature arrests made by the Alabama Highway Patrol." Consequently it has not yet been possible to obtain evidence or confessions to assure successful prosecution.

**Testimony needed**

IF AND WHEN the FBI does move, the agency probably would turn over its evidence to the state for prosecution. The

federal government could prosecute only if it is proved that the dynamite used was shipped across state lines for an illegal purpose.

A source close to the investigation says investigators believe they know when the bomb was made, when it was transported to the church—and how.

The FBI here has refused to comment on the bombing investigation further than what was said in the FBI's Washington statement.

However, it is clear federal agents know much more than they admit. Obviously they are ready to move.

What is needed now is the last piece to complete a giant jigsaw puzzle—an informant who would talk before a jury and not be believed.

next week or next month it could take a year.

But the investigative agencies feel certain of success in coming weeks.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Date: 12-6-64  
 Edition: LATE EDITION  
 Author: GEORGE BIGLERS III  
 Editor: JOHN H. BUCHANAN  
 Title: RACE BOMBING

Character:

or

Classification: BU #157-352  
 Submitting Office: FBI Being Investigated

157-352-5F1-118

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
DEC - 8 1964	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Bombing reward money returned

Over \$1,500 in reward money for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for killing four Negro girls in bombing the 16th Street Baptist Church in September 1963 has been returned.

Almost \$80,000 was given or pledged as a reward for information. In addition to the \$1,527 actually collected, there was \$78,052 listed as "firm pledges over responsible signatures."

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES for the reward fund met last Wednesday and voted to return the money. Terms of a resolution by the City Council dictated the money must be returned if not paid out by Dec. 31, 1964.

Spokesmen for the four-man board of trustees was James Haley, former president of the Birmingham Bar Association. Other members were R. E. Farr, District 30 director of the United Steel Workers; Dr. John Buchanan, retired pastor of Southside Baptist Church, and Amos Kirby, public relations director at Carraway Methodist Hospital.

Haley said the board of trustees was also authorized to pay any amount of the \$1,527 that in their discretion was necessary for information

leading to the arrest and conviction of anyone bombing a residence or other building in Birmingham. None was ever paid.

All but \$6 of the money collected was returned. Coming from an unknown contributor, the \$6 was used for postage to mail the 57 checks necessary to return the money.

After the board of trustees voted to return the money a letter was necessary from Birmingham Police Chief Jamie Moore stating that no one had been arrested in connection with the two-year-old bombings.

Haley said there will probably be some wrong addresses among the 57 checks, for some people have moved since donating the money. One \$5 check has already been returned.

The money was kept in a bank account at no interest for two years. Haley said the board knew it would have been for two years, they might have set up some sort of interest account.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

12 BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, ALA.

Date: 3-23-65  
Edition: LATE FINAL  
Author: UNKNOWN  
Editor: JOHN W. BLOOMER  
Title: GREENBOMBS  
*LAPBD 84*

Character:

or  
Classification: BH 174-6\*

Submitting Office: BH

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
MAR 29 1965	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**Attempted bombing****Lead,****critical****in wild****Meridian****battle****Pretty teacher slain,****Klanster wounded**

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-1-68  
 Edition: Dixie  
 Author: George Metz  
 Editor: John W. Bloomer  
 Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

Classification: 157-352

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

 Being Investigated

157-352-SF-110

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 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED \_\_\_\_\_

JUL 1 - 1968

FBI - BIRMINGHAM

JG

BY GEORGE METZ  
News staff writer

MERIDIAN, Miss.

Police kept a 24-hour hospital guard around a young Mobile man today in the wake of an early Sunday running gunbattle that left the man's pretty school teacher companion dead and two other persons — including a patrolman — critically injured.

The gunfire broke out after police attempted to arrest the man near the home of a widely-known Jewish businessman where they had been staked out.

Thomas Albert Tarrants III, 22, of Mobile, remained in a Matty Hersee Hospital room this morning, an armed Meridian policeman at his bedside and Mississippi highway patrolman posted outside.

While his condition was listed as serious, police were advised by hospital officials late Sunday that he is expected to survive. He was wounded in a running gunfight with police following the attempted bombing of a residence here.

The condition of both Meridian policeman J. M. (Mike) Hatcher and Navy Aviation Machinist Mate 2-c Robert E. Burton, who Tarrants is accused of machine gunning, were described as "still critical."

Hatcher, hit four times with slugs from a German-made submachine gun, still had one slug lodged in the membranous tissue of his heart early this morning, with a second slug closeby.

A team of Jeff Anderson Memorial Hospital surgeons removed two bullets from his upper abdomen during a more than five-hour operation Sunday morning but made no attempt to remove the two bullets in the vicinity of his heart. It was not known when surgery would be resumed.

A POLICE OFFICER  
from the Meridian Police Department  
is shown in this file photo.

expert, had "gone into shock" but is still hanging on.

Meanwhile, a formal charge of attempted murder was lodged against Tarrants about midday Sunday by County Judge Emerson Harwell after Hatcher's police prowler car partner, patrolman T. E. Tucker, named Tarrants as the gunman. Tucker testified that after he rammed a speeding late model black Buick chased from the scene of the alleged attempted bombing, the driver, whom he identified as Tarrants, turned a machine gun on the police car.

Tucker ducked beneath the car dashboard but Hatcher caught four slugs as he leaped from the patrol car — two and possibly three shots striking him through the windshield.

Burton was cut down by a burst from the submachine gun when he emerged from a

nearby residence to see what had happened.

Found dead on the floorboard of the Buick later was the body of a young, attractive woman, identified by police Chief Roy Gunn as Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, a Jackson school teacher, whose purse contained a loaded 25-caliber pistol and membership cards in both the Americans for the Preservation of the White Race and Ku Klux Klan.

Chief Gunn gave the following account of the gun battle, shortly after midnight Sunday which ended in her death, the wounding of Tarrants, Hatcher and Burton. He stated that about 15 officers, wearing black polo shirts had staked out the 29th Avenue residence of Meridian businessman Meyer Davidson when the Buick automobile was seen driving past the residence of Hatcher's police partner, patrolman T. E. Tucker, making a turn in the driveway. Tucker said that as he was approaching the residence, he saw a police car

several times. When the car stopped about 50 feet from the building, later, a man now identified as Tarrants stepped out carrying a box and started walking toward the car. Ordered to halt, he dropped the box, in which 29 sticks of dynamite and an alarm clock detonating device were later found, wheeled and in Chief Gunn's words "pointed a pistol."

Officers fired and the suspect appeared to be struck, dropped his pistol but ran to the black Buick and fled under a barrage of withering police fire.

HATCHER AND Tucker, the only officers at the scene with an automobile, attempted to block the path of the Buick but wound up in a highspeed, bullet-punctured chase, for approximately 15 blocks — when Tucker rammed the Buick and it went out of control striking an embankment.

It was at this point, police charged Tarrants fired on the officers with the submachine gun.

He fired until the weapon was empty, dashed across a nearby lawn, and was trying to climb over a fence when other pursuing officers caught him with their fire.

It was unclear just where Mrs. Ainsworth was killed. Police said it might have happened during the first at Davidson's house, or more likely during the chase when Hatcher fired at the fleeing car with a Winchester rifle.

She was struck in the back of the head and was probably killed instantly.

Tarrants was described by Gunn as a "prime suspect" in other bombings and recent nightrider violence here and in Jackson. The Temple Beth Israel Synagogue here, shattered by a dynamite blast several weeks ago, was the only instance of bombing at Meridian; however, the synagogue in Jackson, the homes of a Jewish rabbi, and a white Protestant lay leader were bombed last year. Gunn named Tarrants as a suspect in all the incidents.

Meyer Davidson, 51, a leader in Meridian's Jewish community, instrumental in raising a \$75,000 reward following the Temple Beth Israel bombing here, was not at home when police set their trap outside the home.

Davidson's residence was one of several staked out by police in recent weeks. An automobile parked in his driveway only a few days ago had been struck by bullets fired from a speeding car. But police officials would not confirm a report that some 10 men staked out the house Saturday night after receiving information it would be bombed.

Tarrants was arrested at Collins last December in company of Sam Holloway Bowers Jr., Imperial Wizard of the Imperial Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and now under 10-year federal sentence for the slaying of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia.

Collins officers found an M-3 submachine gun in the car driven by Tarrants with Bowers as a passenger.

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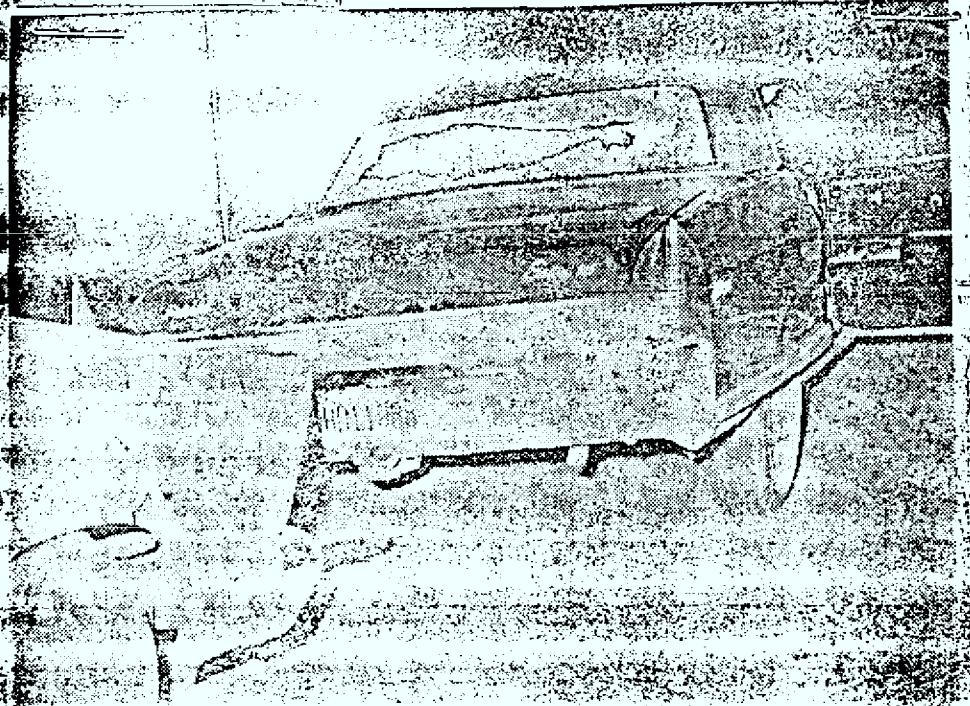
Meyer Davidson, a leader in Meridian's Jewish community, instrumental in raising a \$75,000 reward following the Temple Beth Israel bombing here, was not at home when police set their trap outside the home.



THOMAS TARRANTS  
... Bomb suspect



ROY GUNN  
Chief tells of trap



TARRANTS' CAR AT END OF RUNNING GUNBATTLE

View shows smashed front window. ... Here is police cruiser in which Patrolman J. M. Hatcher was critically wounded.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Accident Victims Die in Gun Battle

MERIDIAN, Miss. (UPI) — and Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), issued statements Saturday as a result from a broadcasting investigation into the recent bombing of prominent Jewish leader's home and the blinding gun battle which followed.

"The investigation is over and no arrests have been made," said Police Chief Roy Gunn.

Gunn said officials were rounding up the party and supporters of Thomas J. Hatcher, 31, Meridian, who was

described as a man of various backgrounds and interests.

Hatcher, 31, was taken to jail Saturday night and charged with the early morning gun battle with police officers in a blinding gun battle.

Persons like Hatcher and others in Birmingham maintained an intensive campaign before demands they suffered in the incident. Hatchet, 31, one of the upper-class Negroes and Burton was a bystander.

The gun battle, which Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 21, was fatally shot during the gun battle, FBI agents said, was the result of a wheeling and dealing between her friends.

It was reported that she had been shot in the head during her funeral.

Her death was the result of

and Sen. John Stennis (D-Miss.), issued statements Saturday as a result from a broadcasting investigation into the recent bombing of prominent Jewish leader's home and the blinding gun battle which followed.

"The investigation is over and no arrests have been made," said Police Chief Roy Gunn.

Gunn said officials were rounding up the party and supporters of Thomas J. Hatcher, 31, Meridian, who was

described as a man of various backgrounds and interests.

Hatcher, 31, was taken to jail Saturday night and charged with the early morning gun battle with police officers in a blinding gun battle.

Persons like Hatcher and others in Birmingham maintained an intensive campaign before demands they suffered in the incident. Hatchet, 31, one of the upper-class Negroes and Burton was a bystander.

The gun battle, which Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 21, was fatally shot during the gun battle, FBI agents said, was the result of a wheeling and dealing between her friends.

Her death was the result of

women as a "stupid, blood-thirsty" act by incompetent police." Officers said Mrs. Ainsworth was an active member of the APWR.

W. T. Pickel, APWR president, said it was "incumbent on those who knew her to draw renewed dedication from the memory of her short life, to firmly believe that Kathy Ainsworth shall not have died in vain."

"Not agreeing with the socialism being promoted in our public schools," he said, "she tried to teach her students the true, pure and firm Christian beliefs."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

— THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

19

BIRMINGHAM PCS.  
HERALD

BIRMINHAW, ALABAMA

Date: 7-2-68

Edition:

Author: Duard LeGrand

Editor:

Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-SF1-11

or

Classification:  
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED *CB*

JUL 2 - 1968  
FBI - BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below),

JULY 2 1968

# A Police in Motion

## KING

BY TED PEARSON

PORT

ST.

He was driving his car in Meridian, Miss., last night when he was pulled over by police.

They found him well armed with a shotgun.

He was charged with

driving while

armed.

U. S. Probation Officer

John W. Bloomer

had given him a

probation sentence

last year.

He had been

driving while

armed.

Tarrants was turned over to federal authorities because he had the gun off shoulder and there was illegal weapons in the car. The federal grand jury Tax Unit took Tarrants into federal court which put him on probation.

BUT A FEW MONTHS later, police stopped a car that was being recklessly driven in Collierville, Miss. They found Tarrants driving.

His companion in the car was Samuel Holloway Bowens Jr., identified as Ku Klux Klan leader.

Bowens was one of two white men convicted in 1967, in Meridian,

1964 slaying of three young

black men.

On Aug. 20, 1968, it was learned from the FBI that death of Negro leader Martin Luther King had been caused by a shotgun blast fired at point-blank range.

King's body was found in a Memphis rooming house.

King's widow, Coretta Scott King, filed a civil rights suit against the Memphis police department.

King's body was taken to Atlanta, Ga., for autopsy. The tests were inconclusive but police refused to return the weapon to Tarrants.

"He got what he deserved," responded Tarrants. "He said once he had decided that he wouldn't whip us so he has no right to join us. That's all they're doing we wanted. When we got out that cattle ranch, we kept him."

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(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

**MISSISSIPPI NEWS**  
BIRMINGHAM  
TUESDAY, JULY 2, 1968  
MURKIN, JAMES L.

—The bombing of the Jackson home was one of many which had been investigated by the police. They hit pay dirt early Sunday.

David said that Tarrants was a member of the group which followed bombings and acts of violence.

—The bombing of Beth David, Jackson, on Sept. 11, 1967.

—The bombing of a faculty residence at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Miss., Oct. 10, 1967.

—The bombing of Trimble Beth David, Meridian, Miss., May 22, 1968.

—The bombing of the home of civil rights worker Willie Dard in Florence on Aug. 11, 1968.

—The bombing of Trimble Beth David, Meridian, Miss., May 22, 1968.

—The Jackson residence was untouched today, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Chief Gunn, who once declared he was "hoping to be a pallbearer" for those responsible for the acts of violence.

—The bombing of the home of civil rights worker Willie Dard in Florence on Aug. 11, 1968.

—The bombing of Trimble Beth David, Meridian, Miss., May 22, 1968.

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—The bombing of Trimble Beth David, Meridian, Miss., May 22, 1968.

—The bombing of the Jackson residence of Robert Kochitzky, Methodist lay leader and civil rights leader on Nov. 22, 1967.

—The bombing of the Jackson home of Rev. Dr. Perry Nesshauer on Nov. 21, 1967.

—THE BOMBING of the home of civil rights worker Willie Dard in Florence on Aug. 11, 1968.

—The bombing of Trimble Beth David, Meridian, Miss., May 22, 1968.

David had been a leader in the drive to raise \$75,000 reward money for the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the bombing of the Meridian temple.

The Jackson residence was untouched today, thanks to the dedicated efforts of Chief Gunn, who once declared he was "hoping to be a pallbearer" for those responsible for the acts of violence.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

## THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

## BIRMINGHAM HERALD

## BIRMINGHAM HERALD

Date: 7-1-68  
 Edition: Metro  
 Author: George Metz  
 Editor: John W. Bloomer  
 Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-SF-113

or

Classification:  
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

1.  *Indicates retention of copy*

SEARCHED INDEXED  
 SERIALIZED FILED *B*

JUL 2 - 1968

FBI — BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

*AC BOMBED MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.**JULY 14 1968*

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

*BIRMINGHAM  
NEWS**BIRMINGHAM POST-  
INTELLIGENCER**BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA*

Date: 7-1-68  
 Edition: Metro  
 Author: George Metz  
 Editor: John W. Bloomer  
 Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-SF1-114

Classification:  
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM Being InvestigatedSEARCHED \_\_\_\_\_ INDEXED \_\_\_\_\_  
 SERIALIZED \_\_\_\_\_ FILED *B*

JUL 2 1968

FBI - BIRMINGHAM

*[Signature]*

BY GEORGE

News staff reporter

### MERIDIAN

A self-styled "underground fighter" from Mobile, Ala., who had been under heavy guard since he was captured after the bombing of the First Baptist Church of Meridian Saturday morning, remained hospitalized today after being treated by Dr. Roy Guin said.

Sunday gun battles between police and the "underground fighters" continued, and a plot and took place to blow up a pretty Jackson girl teacher.

Two other men — one of whom was a policeman — were killed hours Sunday.

THE BATTLE that followed ranged for several miles, ending at the home of Mrs. Kathy Ainsworth, 26, who was found dead in her bed.

Meridian Police Chief George L. Hatchett said his officers found her body in the early morning hours Sunday, and had been shot down as he tried to run away to elude over a dozen police officers.

The other man, an African-American, was found in the fusillade of shots—some

of them from Tammie

me, who had a gun—were

merely coincidental, he said.

Hatchett said

the "underground fighters"

had been captured

in a house in the city

and were held in a

public school and

then released.

Hatchett was told at least

one man was killed

in the fusillade.

He said he had been

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and had come to

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home after driving past several times. A man, now identified as Tarrants' stepson, got out of the car and approached the carport carrying a small bag.

Police orders to halt were not in the darkness. The man dropped the bag, which contained dynamite, and a deposing device were later found, and passed a pistol.

The Marion officers immediately fired at the man who appeared to stage a man made back to cover and fled under a banner of police gunfire.

Two good pitchers of Officer W. H. Tucker, the captain of the scene in an automatic, picked out in hot pursuit in what developed into a long, bullet-pocked chase.

The gunners, with their car away from the ear and forcing it to a stop, were unable to make an end run.

After a brief chase, Tarrants leaped from his

car and ran across the lawn, but was shot down and dropped into the bushes. Tarrants hung there, unconscious, as officers came up and arrested him.

He was found to have been driving a Buick machine gun, which was a lawn, and was found to have been driving and running a machine gun.

ONCE A NEWORTH'S body, a rifle slug in the back of the head, was found on the front seat of Tarrants' car. Police said it was uncertain at what point she was killed but believed she died during the bullet-pocked chase when Tucker and Tucker were driving the fugitive out with all speed.

Tarrants said he had been driving a Thermatil car, a special kind of automobile, self-dependent and road

driven by a motor.

He was captured in Marion

always believed in the war against the enemy. Please note this list since 23 March 1942. Thomas Albert Tarrants III, has been under ground and operating guerrilla warfare.

Tarrants was described by Gunn as a "prime suspect" in other bombings and recent nightrider violence here and at Jackson. The Temple Beth El Synagogue here, shattered by a dynamite blast two weeks ago, was the same source of trouble at Jackson; however, the synagogue at Jackson, the homes of a Jewish rabbi and a white Protestant lay leader were bombed late last year. Gunn named Tarrants as a suspect in all the incidents.

Meyer Davidson, 51, a leader of Marion's Jewish community, was reported missing and while Eddie Roth, a brakeman here, was not at home when police set traps outside the home.

Davidson's residence was one of several staked out by police, but he was not found. Information given to the newspaper only a few days ago had been stricken off the list from a spending FBI. Local police officials would not confirm a report that since 16 men staked out the house Saturday night after receiving information it would be handled.

Tarrants was arrested at Colmar, a suburb of Pittsburgh, by Sam McWayne Bowers Jr., Imperial Wizard of the Imperial Knights of the Ku Klux Klan and now under

30-year federal sentence for the slaying of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia.

Cities officers found an M-3 semiautomatic gun in the car driven by Tarrants with Bowers as a passenger.

## ROY GUNN Chief tells of trap

By JAMES R. COOPER

Times Staff Writer

Marion, Ohio

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# ALWAYS WATCHED

## Tarrants not new to police

BY TOM LANKFORD  
and TED PEARSON  
News staff writers

At 17, when other boys his own age were obsessed with cam shafts and four-barreled carburetors, he openly boasted he could take "rubber bands and a little wire" and convert an M-1 carbine into a fully automatic weapon.

"Damn Jews, I'm going to kill them," he was fond of saying. And among those he said it to were police informants both here and in Mobile, because long before Thomas A. Tarrants III reached adulthood he was already being watched and shadowed by both metropolitan police in Alabama and the FBI.

This is the picture that emerged today of the 22-year-old Mobile man who was gunned down in Meridian early Sunday as he allegedly attempted to dynamite the home of Meridian businessman and Jewish leader Meyer Davidson.

Today, he lies seriously wounded in a Meridian hospital, shot down by police bullets after a suspected bomb plot went awry and as he fled his own wrecked automobile where a girl companion lay dead of rifle shots.

**TARRANTS IS charged with attempted murder, the killing of a woman, and the shooting of a Meridian officer who is still in a hospital.**

Guilty or innocent, guns and bullets are nothing new to Tarrants.

He was obsessed with them.

He began coming to Birmingham long before his 20th birthday, usually staying at the headquarters of the radical National States Rights Party here out on Bessemer Road. The party has since moved its main operations to Augusta, Ga.

And during his visits here, with word of his rock hard attitudes and his love for guns already commonplace, police shadowed his every move.

Unknown to Tarrants, he was frequently flanked by police informants.

The troubles of both the South and the nation, he frequently claimed, lay in the "Communist-Jewish" conspiracy.

From time to time, he showed up with picket signs in front of Jewish stores in Mobile. He made periodic trips back here between 1963 and 1965, each time his movements carefully observed by local police and, by 1965, the FBI.

In Mobile, his home town, it all began at 17 when he was picked up in a car with Robert (Bob) Smith, leader of the NSRP. Hidden in the auto was a sawed off shotgun, double-barreled, 12-gauge.

known to gun pros as a "Bluegrass."

He was charged under federal laws regulating such weapons and pleaded not guilty before Federal Judge Daniel Thomas in Mobile on Oct. 2, 1964.

Tarrants later changed his plea to guilty and was placed on probation for a period "not exceeding his majority," which means that he was clear on his 21st birthday. So just a few days after the all important birthday, he was found in a car with notorious segregationist leader Sam Bowers of Mississippi. Inside the car was a submachine gun, the same type of weapon allegedly used in Sunday's early-hours shootout at Meridian.

For gun lover Tarrants, the road has led not unexpectedly to deep trouble.

On Sunday, he was charged for attempted murder as he writhed in pain on a hospital bed, badly wounded.

Monday, a grand jury in Hinds County, Miss., indicted him for the \$48,000 armed robbery of a grocery store last May. Armed robbery in Mississippi is a capital offense.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-2-68  
Edition: Metro  
Author: Lankford & Pearson  
Editor: John W. Bloomer  
Title: GREENBOMB

Character:

or 157-352-SF-  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SF-115

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 3 - 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

CP

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Police push probe in Meridian

BY JACK HARTSFIELD  
News staff writer

MERIDIAN, Miss.

Law officers were not saying today whether more arrests are ahead in the night rider attempted bombing of the home of Meyer Davidson, prominent Jewish business leader in Meridian.

Police Chief Roy Gunn, who would not rule out further arrests, guardedly commented that he was hopeful the continuing investigation would turn up new evidence.

Meanwhile, the self-styled "underground fighter," Thomas A. Tarrants III, 22, of Mobile, gunned down Sunday by law officers after one of Mississippi's wildest running gun battles remained in serious condition at Matty Hershey Hospital. He is under heavy guard.

Across town at Jeff Anderson Memorial Hospital a police patrolman and a bystander, both cut down by submachine gun fire in the chase remained on the critical list.

Patrolman J. M. Hatcher, 31-year-old father of three, was sprayed with machine gun bullets while trying to arrest Tarrants. Navy machinists' mate C. Robert Burton, a bystander, was hit in the yard of his home when he rushed out to see what the commotion was about.

The raging battle on Meridian streets ended in the death of Mrs. Hally Ainsworth, 21, a registered nurse, wife of Tarrants, who was said

Mrs. Ainsworth, a fifth grade teacher at Duling Elementary School in Jackson, was carrying a .25 caliber pistol in her purse and membership cards in the Americans for Preservation of the White Race and the Ku Klux Klan.

GUNN SAID the episode began in the pre-dawn hours Sunday while 10 officers were staked out at the Davidson residence, one of four locations under surveillance that night.

Officers moved in when they spotted a Buick sedan stop near the house and saw a man get out. Investigators claimed they challenged Tarrants as he tried to place a box of dynamite with a time detonator beside the Davidson home.

The man, officers claim, dropped the dynamite and officers fired as he fled to the waiting car. Police pursued, firing at the auto and finally rammed it 15 blocks away.

Investigators said Tarrants jumped from the car spraying machinegun bullets, injuring the bystander and officer Hatcher, before lawmen cut him down with their own fire while he was trying to climb over a fence.

Chief Gunn said documents recovered from Tarrants' possession spoke of a so-called "Communist Jew" conspiracy and that Tarrants had gone "underground" as a guerrilla fighter.

THE POLICE chief said that Mrs. Ainsworth's husband, who was attending summer camp at Camp Shelby, knew she was a member of the Americans for Preservation of the White Race, a militant segregationist group.

W. T. Pickel, president of APWR's Jackson chapter described Mrs. Ainsworth as "a wonderful Christian patriot" and said those who know her would say she had "she shall not have died in vain!"

Pickel's earlier statement said Mrs. Ainsworth was expecting her first child in six months.

"Not agreeing with the socialism being promoted in our public schools, she tried to teach her students true Americanism and firm Christian beliefs," Pickel continued.

A native of Miami, she moved to Mississippi and graduated from Mississippi College at nearby Clinton. Police said she had been affiliated with the APWR and three different Ku Klux Klan groups and was a frequent speaker at segregationist meetings.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

## 1 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

## BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

## BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-2-68

Edition: Metro

Author: Jack Hartsfield  
Editor: John W. Bloomer

Title: GREENBOMB

Character:

or

Classification: 157-352-SF-116

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
JUL 9 - 1968	
FBI—BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## The Bombers

President Johnson's action in assigning Secret Service agents to all presidential candidates paid off in Sacramento the other night when the agents and California police routed from Gov. Ronald Reagan's residence two kids armed with Molotov cocktails.

The malicious intent of the two boys was frustrated by the guards and because their "bombs" didn't go off.

It is possible these youngsters, caught up in the violence which has been preached and practiced by so many recently, thought they simply were embarked on a prank. More likely they meant real harm to the governor and his family.

In any case, the use of homemade firebombs to avenge, or protest, or simply to make trouble has become murderously commonplace.

It doesn't matter whether the bombs are aimed at the governor of California, the Yugoslav chancery in Washington, the headquarters of an anti-war outfit in New York, a labor

leader's home in Louisiana, the house of a Negro merchant in Mississippi, or at a church in Birmingham. The motive is criminal and the results often lethal.

Four little girls died in the bombing of the church here. The Negro merchant in Mississippi also was killed. In the other, more recent, incidents, nobody was hurt, but that was sheer good fortune and no credit to the bomb-throwers.

By no stretch of imagination can any of this come under the head of free speech or airing grievances. It is plain viciousness.

All the weapons controls in the world won't curb this type of crime. The bombs are easily made—a wild-eyed, radical paper in New York several months ago published a diagram of how to do it with a beer bottle and a little gasoline.

There is only one other answer: Tough, aggressive police work and the severest possible penalties, not only for tossing one of these things, but for making or possessing one.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM  
NEWS

14 BIRMINGHAM POST-  
HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 7-12-68

Edition:

Author: editorial  
Editor: Duard LeGrand  
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

Classification: 157-352

Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-117

SEARCHED INDEXED  
SERIALIZED FILED CR

JUL 12 1968

FBI—BIRMINGHAM

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## *Girl bomb victims to be remembered*

Five years ago Sunday, four children died in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist church.

Now, Birmingham ministers, have been invited to participate in a memorial service Sunday in observance of the fifth anniversary of the tragedy.

Rev. John Porter, pastor of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, said the memorial service was his "own bag," and that he was seeking as an individual to organize the service.

Rev. Mr. Porter also called on Mayor George Seibels and the Birmingham City Council to proclaim Sept. 15 as "A Day of Remembrance" for Birmingham.

Though plans are not complete, Rev. Mr. Porter said the service would probably be held in Kelly Ingram Park, across from the church.

THEN, PARTICIPANTS will lay wreaths on the steps of the church, at City Hall, and at the graves of the four girls killed in the bombing.

Though Rev. Mr. Porter did not ask official endorsement from the ministers, he did not ask official endorsement from the ministers, he did express hope that the memorial service would be "interfaith and interracial."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

10 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-10-68  
 Edition: Metro  
 Author:  
 Editor: John W. Bloomer  
 Title: BAPBOMB

Inquirer  
 or  
 Classification: 157-352  
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM

Being Investigated

157-352-SFI-118

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(Mount Clipping In Space Below)

# Negroes Get City Permit For Parade

Mayor George Seibels Thursday issued a permit to Negro leaders to parade Sunday in memory of the deaths of four Negro girls killed in a church bombing on Sept. 15, 1963.

The permit, issued to the Rev. John T. Porter of the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, says the parade will begin at the 16th Street Baptist Church, scene of the bombing, at 4 p.m. Sunday, and end at City Hall.

Parade marshal will be Clarence Woods.

According to Porter, the reasons for the "Day of Remembrance", are:

"To remind ourselves of the tragedy of Sept. 15, which grew out of a deep racial prejudice that permeated our city and still exists in our community."

"To call to the attention of law enforcement officials the fact that no arrests or indictments have been handed down for the dastardly act."

"To call forth a spirit of rededication to the great task of reconciliation which still remains between men of all races."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**2 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD**

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-13-68

Edition: Final

Author:

Editor: Buard LeGrand

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

157-352-SF1

- or -

Classification:

Submitting Office: BH

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-119

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 13 1968	
FBI—BIRMINGHAM	

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Five Years

Five years ago, on Sept. 15, 1963, four Negro girls died in an explosion which rocked the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

That was a Sunday morning, too; the little girls were attending Sunday school.

It's not pleasant to recall that terrible day. But it is impossible not to. Birmingham did not murder those children, as some charged. Neither did Birmingham die in the blast, as some predicted.

But something did die, and something else was born; and that is why it is possible now, five years later, for Birmingham to see a bright future for all, black and white, against the backdrop of its darkest day.

What died with four children for whose murderers the search must never cease was the idea that communication between whites and blacks, between citizens and government, between all segments of the community was impossible in Birmingham, and therefore not worth trying to establish; and the notion that Birmingham could go along in its old ways and some day everything would be all right.

What was born was a new appreciation of the value of a human life and

the importance of its being lived in dignity and in hope; what was born was a new determination by black and white Birminghamians that there would be a new day in this city.

Obviously all prejudice, all resentment was not erased. Obviously all of our problems have not yet been solved. But there has been progress—how great, one only needs to think back across those five years to see.

All of Birmingham can remember and mourn four children this day, as painful as the memory may be. But the city can do so from a vantage point which many—even among our own citizens—thought impossible to attain; it can do so in confidence that the journey which has brought us this far is not by any means ended, and that our direction is true and our momentum steady.

We cannot be complacent—not ever complacent. But we can be thankful that God in His wisdom and mercy has shown us the way this far, God will be with us as we move on, if we invite Him to sit not only in our churches but in our schools and our business offices and our conferences and our daily lives, to remind us that we are, each of us, our brother's brother.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

A-  
**14 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS**  
 Birmingham, Alabama

Date: 9-15-68  
 Edition: Metro  
 Author:  
 Editor: JAMES E. JACOBSON  
 Title: BAPBOMB

Character: BM  
 or  
 Classification:  
 Submitting Office: BIRMINGHAM  
 Being Investigated

157-352-5E1-120

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 15 1968	
FBI — BIRMINGHAM	

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

# Memorial parade held for 4 girls

An estimated 700 marchers paraded from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church to City Hall here Sunday in memory of four children killed in the 1963 bombing of the church.

Memorial services for the four girls were held on the City Hall front steps with white and Negro ministers participating.

Rev. John Porter, minister of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church was parade marshal, and one of the principal speakers at the memorial.

Clarence Woods, local anti-poverty official, headed the memorial service which lasted almost an hour. Principle speaker was Chris "Mac"

McNair, father of Denise McNair, one of the girls killed in the bombing.

"McNAIR TOLD marchers that as long as the murderers responsible for the 1963 bombing roamed the streets, no one's children are safe.

"What safer place could a father find to take his little girl and expect her to be safe, than to his church?" asked McNair.

Rev. Calvin W. Woods, minister of East End Baptist Church, told the group that next week — "We're going to see the FBI and the chief of police, and even the governor and say: 'We want action!'"

2 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-16-68

Edition: Metro

Author:

Editor: John W. Bloomer  
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or

157-352-1

Classification:

Submitting Office: BH

 Being Investigated

157-352-SF-121

SEARCHED	B	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	B	FILED
SEP 17 1968		
FBI—BIRMINGHAM		

11/11/68

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# Bomb Victim's Father Pleads For Action

BY CLAUDE DUNCAN

The father of one of four Negro girls killed in the bombing of The Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham five years ago pleaded Sunday for the bomber's capture.

"As long as you let the guilty run free," Chris McNair told about 700 people gathered at City Hall after a three-block march from Sixteenth Street Baptist Church,

your child is no safer than mine was."

Mrs. McNair placed a four-foot cross of white mums at the door of City Hall. A march leader, Clarence Woods, said the cross was put there "because this is where the guilt lies."

Eleven-year-old Denise McNair and 14-year-olds Carol Robertson, Cynthia Wesley and Addie Mae Collins were killed Sunday, Sept. 15, 1963,

when a bomb blast ripped through the church basement where they were in Sunday School.

Two Negroes were killed by police in the afternoon of racial disturbances that followed the bombing, and 23 were arrested. Gov. George C. Wallace sent 300 state troopers to Birmingham, at the request of Mayor Albert Boutwell, and offered a \$500 reward.

City, state and federal investigative agencies have sought clues to the bombing, but no arrests have been made.

Speakers at Sunday's memorial march condemned the lack of arrests.

"If I had been told on that day five years ago that it would take three weeks or a month to solve this hideous crime I would have said the person who told me did not know what he was talking

about," McNair said in his short, emotional speech.

Another speaker, the Rev. John Thomas Porter of Sixth Avenue Baptist Church, said a delegation would go next week to police, FBI and the governor, to ask for a step-up in the investigation.

The marchers, mostly Negro, walked silently four abreast from the church to City Hall.

One of the speakers was the

Rev. Charles S. Sullivan, who has taken leave of absence as a John Carroll High School teacher in what he called a "symbolic protest against the outdated attitudes" of Birmingham Mobile Diocese Archbishop Thomas J. Toolen.

The Rev. Sullivan apologized to the marchers for what he said was the church's apparent unconcern for civil rights in Alabama.

The Rev. Calvin Woods told the crowd progress had been made in racial relations in Birmingham since the chaotic Summer of 1963.

"We've come a long way," he said. "but we still have a long way to go."

He called for better employment opportunity for the city's Negroes and asked that the city hire more Negro policemen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

5 THE BIRMINGHAM POST HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-16-68

Edition: Final

Author: Claude Duncan

Editor: Duard LeGrand

Title: BAPBOMB

Character:

or 157-352-SA-122

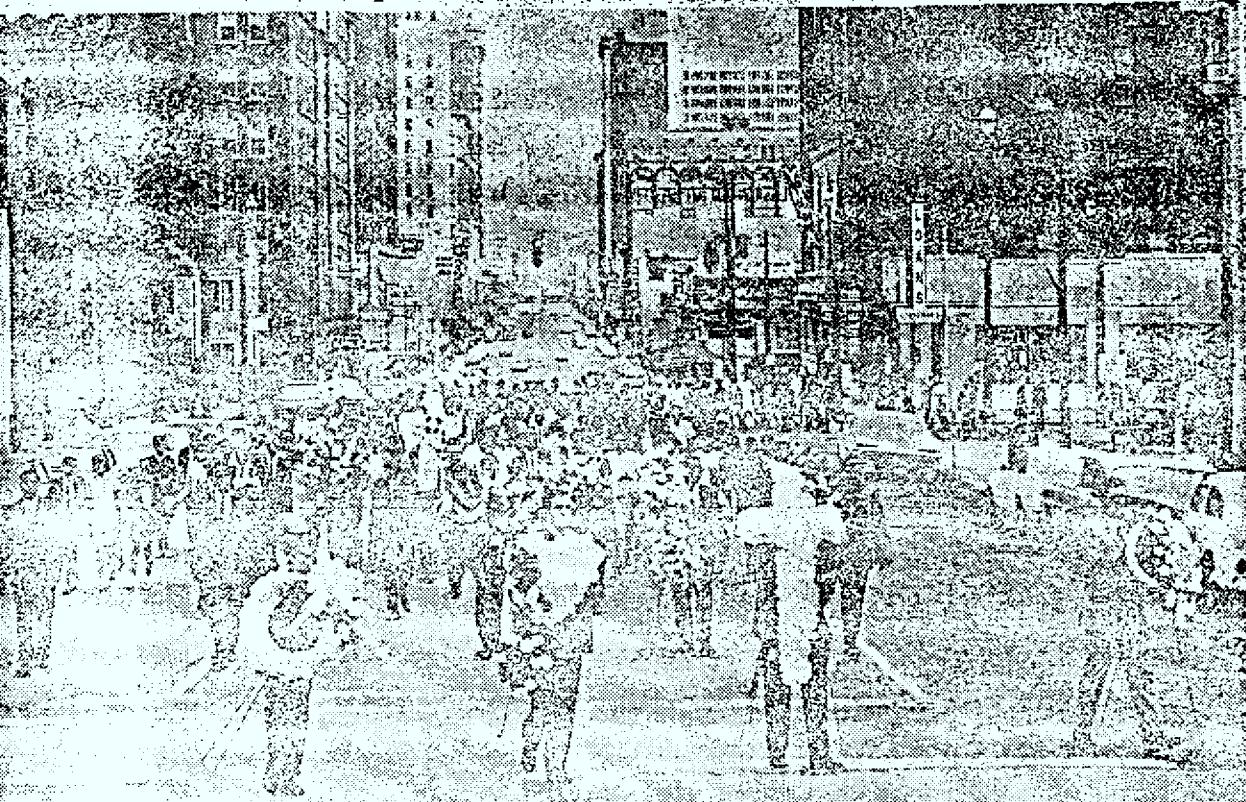
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Submitting Office: BH

 Being Investigated

SEARCHED	B	INDEXED	B
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FBI—BIRMINGHAM			

# In Memory Of Four Young Girls



**MEMORIAL MARCH** — About 700 people marched in silence Sunday from Sixteenth-Street Baptist Church to Birmingham City Hall, marking the fifth anniversary of the death of four young girls

killed when the church was bombed Sunday morning, Sept. 15, 1963. (Story, Page 5). (Post-Herald staff photo by Joe Chapman).



(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

## Memorial

Five years ago Sunday four irreplaceable little girls were killed in an explosion at a church a few blocks from City Hall.

On the fifth anniversary of the tragedy more than 600 persons met at the church then marched to Woodrow Wilson Park to hold a service in front of City Hall.

A principal theme of the service was a call for law and order.

In the vocabularies of some candidates for office the words law and order recently have grown bigger and louder. Regardless of disclaimers by the candidates their listeners understand very well that the words as now used mean something altogether different from their dictionary definitions, something ugly, something violent, something threatening to a large segment of our people. They do not ring true.

On Sunday they rang true indeed. Used by mostly Negro speakers to a mostly Negro audience gathered to honor four Negro girls they were a reminder that of all the American communities, the Negro community has suffered longest and cruellest from a lack of law and order in our total society.

Of all Americans the black American always has been least secure in his person and in his property. No other American has a bigger stake in the establishment and preservation of law and order.

The most recent report on American crime by the Federal Bureau of Investigation shows that of all the persons murdered in this country last year 53 per cent of the victims were Negroes. Making up something like

12 per cent of the population, the Negro is five times as likely as the white to be murdered.

When a Negro speaker calls for law and order in the community and hears his call seconded by a majority of his audience there is nothing vague in the use of the words. He is asking for protection against those who would destroy him and his children. He also is asking that justice be done in the name of those who have been destroyed.

In the five years since the bomb went off at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church there has been no arrest for the quadruple murder although local, state and federal officers have been supposed to be investigating.

Admittedly it is more difficult to uncover the criminal whose deed destroys much of the evidence than it is to charge with auto theft the person caught driving somebody else's car. But our peace officers are paid to tackle and accomplish the hard jobs along with the easy.

The father who lost his only child in the bombing points out that the guilty have been brought to justice for similar outrages elsewhere. He is entitled to an answer when he asks why there has been no action here.

Every parent can understand him when he declares that so long as those who destroyed the four children five years ago remain free, no children in the community are safe.

And every citizen should appreciate that when the father calls for law and order he is calling for the real thing --unbiased enforcement of equal law and an order firmly based on justice for every citizen.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

17 THE BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD

BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-68  
Edition: Final

Author: Duard LeGrand  
Editor: Duard LeGrand  
Title: BAPBOMB

Character: 157-352-5F1-123  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH  
 Being Investigated

SEARCHED	B	INDEXED	B
SERIALIZED		FILED	
SEP 17 1968			
FBI - BIRMINGHAM			

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# 5 years after blast, the search goes on

BY PEGGY ROBERSON  
News staff writer

The bomber or bombers who struck at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church five years ago, killing four little girls, can never be prosecuted on the bombing charge itself.

The statute of limitations on that federal charge, and on most of the other possible charges which might have resulted from the crime, expired Sunday with the fifth anniversary of that horror-filled day.

BUT THERE is no statute of limitations on federal crimes punishable by death, or on the state charge of murder with universal malice — the intention of killing anyone who happens by.

If the FBI can prove the explosives were transported across state lines by someone who knew they were to be used to destroy anything or intimidate anyone, they might have a case, because that particular federal crime is punishable by death.

The investigation goes on. And the FBI agents believe that, sooner or later, they can fix the blame on someone.

RALPH J. MILES, special agent in charge of the Birmingham office, said several suspects are never far out of sight of the FBI.

Birmingham Police Chief Jamie Moore receives information from the federal agents' investigations, and his own detectives run down every lead.

Records and reports on the investigations fill drawer after drawer in FBI headquarters and in the office of U. S. Atty. Macon Weaver.

Weaver assigned Asst. U. S. Atty. J. Richmond Pearson to the task of sifting through all the reports — one more time — when Pearson was appointed to the office this year.

"The investigators have turned up several people capable of doing this crime," Pearson said. "They have found evidence of meetings and conferences between people in this area who could hate this much."

MILES BELIEVES the agents are dedicated to finding the missing links needed to make a case. He says bits of information are still gleaned here and there, often in investigations of other race-related crimes, and are care-

fully added to the collection stored in the files and in the minds of the agents pursuing the killers.

"Most of the agents have children themselves," Miles added. "They work hard on any ordinary investigation — like a bank robbery — but this church bombing falls into a different category. They take a very personal interest in solving it."

"I can't imagine our ever closing this case until this thing is solved," he emphasized. "Sometimes it seems when no public announcements are made, nothing is going on. But that's not true."

"I would like the public to know the bombings are still under investigation, on a daily basis, by the FBI, as they have been since the bombings took place."

"At no time in the interim has the investigation ever ceased."

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

## 5 THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

## BIRMINGHAM, ALABAMA

Date: 9-17-68  
Edition: Metro  
Author: Peggy Roberson  
Editor: John W. Bloomer  
Title: BAPBOMB

Character:  
or 157-352-SF1  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: FH

Being Investigated

157-352-SF1-124

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED <i>B</i>
SEP 18 1968	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	



"THE INVESTIGATION HAS NEVER CEASED"

Pearson read all the records

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# DA views deathbed confession

## Could reopen 1957 unsolved murder

By **Frank Sikora**  
News staff writer

MONTGOMERY -- At the Civil Rights Memorial here Wednesday, someone placed a single white rose in the thin sheet of shimmering water.

The rose rested next to the name of Willie Edwards, one of the more than 30 people who died in the civil rights movement in the South during the 1950s and '60s.

The unsolved 1957 murder of Edwards, 25, an obscure truck driver with a wife and three children, returned to the forefront with the revelation that a former Ku Klux Klansman reportedly made a deathbed confession to his wife about the case.

Now, the Montgomery County district attorney's office says the case could be reopened if new evidence is found.

Bill Mayer, chief deputy of the Montgomery County District Attorney's office, on Wednesday said the office is reviewing the case but has not launched a new investigation.

"At this point all we know is what we've read in the newspapers," he said. "However, if we get some more information, then it could be that we would look at reopening it."

Edwards was stopped by several white men on the night of Jan. 23, 1957, and ordered at gunpoint to jump from the Tyler Goodwyn bridge into the Alabama River.

His body was found three months later in Lowndes County.

The widow of a former Klan member last week

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/2/93  
Edition: THURSDAY

Title: "DA VIEWS DEATHBED CONFESSION"

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office BH

Indexing:

**INDEX**

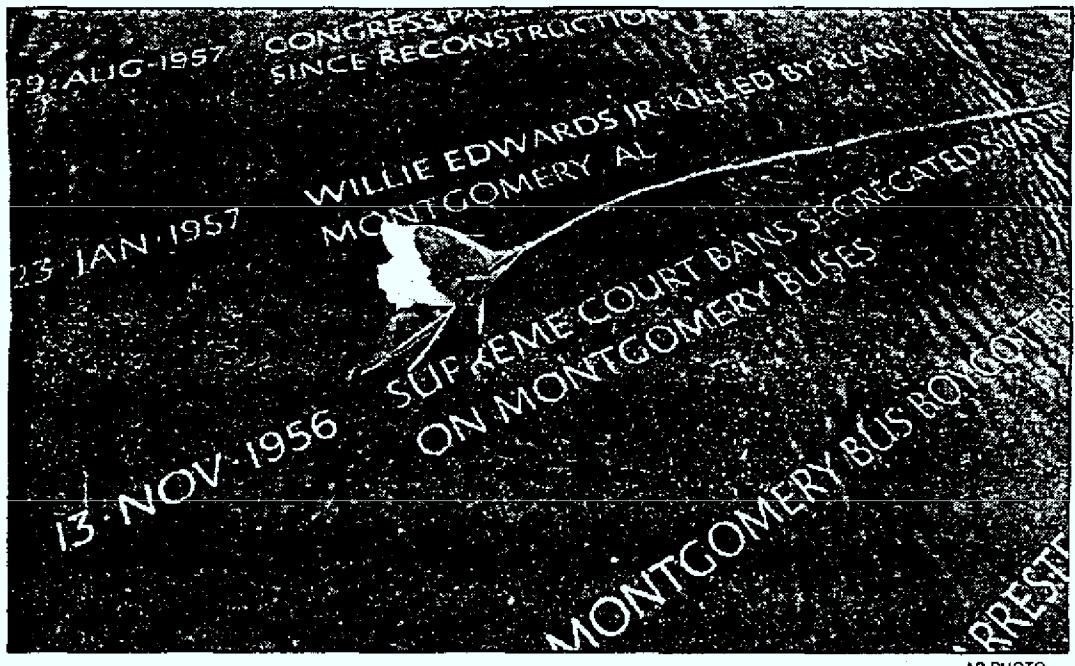


152-352-5A1-125

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 19 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM



AP PHOTO

Rose adorns Civil Rights Memorial space dedicated to Willie Edwards.

said her husband confessed to leading six other men in the *nightrider* murder.

Henry Alexander, 61, died in December 1992, several weeks after allegedly making the statement to his wife, Diane Alexander.

She also said her husband was an FBI informant.

Mayer said it is not clear whether Alexander named other people in the abduction.

"There would be legal questions as to the admissibility in court," he said, "and we would likely have to have a judicial inquiry on the issue. This is a little different from a person telling police something from the deathbed."

Morris Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center and representing Edwards' survivors, has asked the FBI to furnish all documents pertaining to Alexander's role in the civil rights movement, that began in Montgomery when blacks boycotted segregated buses in late 1955.

The Supreme Court in December 1956 upheld a lower court ruling handed down by federal judges Frank M. Johnson Jr. and Richard Rives, declaring segregation unconstitutional.

Removing racial barriers on the buses set off a wave of bombings and sniping incidents, including the bombing of the home of boycott leader the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dees said he has been told Alexander may have been involved in bombing King's home.

Edwards, who took no part in the protest, apparently was picked at random by Klan members angry about the desegregation orders.

In 1976, a man named Raymond Britt told investigators that he and several other men took part in the incident, and Attorney General Bill Baxley obtained indictments against them.

Alexander was one of four men indicted on a murder charge.

But Montgomery Circuit Judge Frank Embry dismissed the indictments because they did not specify a cause of death. Baxley did not seek new indictments.

He later said the FBI told him Alexander had been an informant in the 1950s, and asked that he be given "consideration."

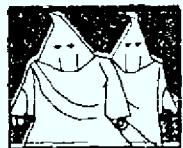
Another man who had been indicted in 1976, William Kyle "Sonny" Livingston, a Montgomery bail bondsman now age 55, said Wednesday he was told in 1969 that Alexander was an FBI informant.

"It didn't mean anything to me," he said. "I was never in the Klan. But I've been persecuted over this (Edwards) case for years. I was only 18 when that happened, and I wasn't there. I hung around with some people who were in the Klan, but I wasn't a member."

Britt later recanted and said Livingston was not present when Edwards was forced to jump from the bridge.

# Willie Edwards' abduction death still haunts state

Revelations may force review of 1957 killing and later probe



MONTGOMERY — They called him "Mookie," a name that seemed to fit his small stature —

5-feet-6, 150 pounds.

But today, the shadow of Willie Edwards, 24, continues to haunt Alabama, a state which was a stronghold of Ku Klux Klan activity.

Edwards, who was black, died the night of Jan. 23, 1957, when a group of white men abducted him and forced him to jump from the Tyler Goodwyn Bridge in Montgomery, according to indictments and statements given in the case.

Additional details about Edwards' death have emerged since Diane Alexander, the wife of Klan member Henry Alexander, revealed two weeks ago that her husband confessed to the deed as he lay near death last December.

She also said her husband had worked for the FBI as an informant.

Alexander's first wife, Edna, who was married to him when the Edwards incident took place, had given investigators a statement in 1976 implicating her husband in the murder.

"Edna was one of my informants on Klan activity," said Jack Shows, a former Montgomery detective and later chief investigator for then-Attorney General Bill Baxley.

Shows said Edna Alexander talked to him in early 1976 and mentioned a missing Winn-Dixie truck driver.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/7/93  
Edition: TUESDAY

Title: "WILLIE EDWARDS' ABDUCTION DEATH STILL HAUNTS STATE"

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

SEARCHED

X  
JRC

152-352-5F2-126

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1983	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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He said that was the first he had heard of it.

She also, like Diane Alexander, said that Alexander had been an FBI informant.

Morris Dees of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery is representing Edwards' survivors and has asked the FBI to open its files on Alexander.

"The family wants to know how much the FBI knew about him (Alexander) and if he was working for them when this happened," Dees said.

Dees said Alexander also was indicted, but never tried, for a number of bombings in Montgomery during the civil rights movement. He said it raises questions whether the FBI was "running interference" for him.

Shows, who was a Montgomery detective in 1957, said he stayed in close contact with FBI agents during the turbulent '50s and '60s.

"I don't believe they would have put anyone up to do something violent," he said. "Most of the FBI agents who were here in those days have retired or have died."

Spencer Robb, the agent in charge of the Montgomery office, has retired and moved out of the state.

In her statement to Shows in 1976, Edna Alexander said her husband and three others came to the house that night in 1957 and bragged about the event.

"They came back, they were laughing and were saying something about a Negro man making a pass at a white woman, and I heard one of them say he will never make a pass at another white women ... I asked them, 'Did ya'all harm that man?' and they said, 'No, he just jumped off the river bridge'"

One man named in the statement, Raymond Britt, agreed to testify for the state when Baxley obtained indictments against them. Britt gave a chilling account of the night Edwards was forced to jump to his death.

In his statement, Britt said Alexander was driving and they were looking for a black man who drove a Winn-Dixie truck and had made a suggestive statement to a white woman.

Britt said they saw a truck parked along Lower Wetumpka Road and a

black man was inside, apparently reading the log book by the dome light. He said the men got out of the car and approached the truck with guns drawn and told the driver to get out.

He was forced into the car and they began riding. He denied talking to a white woman.

Britt said in the statement:

"The driver was very frightened and pleaded with us not to harm him. The driver was sobbing and begging for his life. As we approached the bridge, (Blank) and Alexander told him that we were going to throw him in the river if he didn't tell us the truth. I also told the driver that we were going to throw him in the river."

They stopped on the bridge and ordered Edwards out, slapping him and shoving him about. Then one of them

pointed a gun at Edwards and told him to "hit the water."

Britt said Edwards climbed onto the railing and jumped off. "I remember that he screamed on the way down to the water," the statement said. Two fishermen found the remains of Edwards in Lowndes County three months after the incident.

The Alabama River had been in flood stage, and the body was caught on some low-hanging tree limbs. Edwards' drivers license was still in the clothing.

That night had been his first to drive for Winn-Dixie; he was called in as a substitute for the regular driver, also black, who made the run to Sylacauga.

In 1976, Alexander, Britt, Sonny Kyle Livingston and J.D. York were indicted on murder charges by Baxley, but a state judge said the indictment did not cite a cause of death, and dismissed them.

It was then that the FBI told Baxley that Alexander had worked for the agency and asked for consideration.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.Date: 9/9/93  
Edition: THURSDAYTitle: "FBI'S ROLE IN '57 DEATH  
TO BE PROBED"Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

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# FBI's role in '57 death to be probed

Widows of black victim  
and Klansman meet

Copy Sent  
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152-352-SF1-127

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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FBI Director Louis Freeh plans to order a review of the agency's actions in the failed prosecution of Ku Klux Klan members who in 1957 forced a black man to jump to his death from a bridge in Montgomery.

The statement, which Montgomery civil rights lawyer Morris Dees characterizes as "carefully worded," originally was made to NBC News in a segment on Wednesday night's *Now* newsmagazine program.

That show united Diane Alexander of Montgomery, whose dying Klansman husband confessed his role in the 1957 death of Willie Edwards, and Sarah Salter of Buffalo, N.Y., who was Edwards' pregnant wife when he died. The women, sitting together in a studio with host Katie Couric, were in tears after watching a segment on their husbands.

Mrs. Salter said she was relieved to know, after 36 years of wondering, what happened to her husband. Mrs. Alexander said she was nervous about meeting Mrs. Salter, "but it felt good."

The women's lives were linked after Mrs. Alexander recently wrote Mrs. Salter to describe what her husband, Henry Alexander, said happened to Edwards. He confessed that he and others picked Edwards at random, accused him of talking to a white woman, took him to a bridge over the Alabama River and told him to "hit the water." Edwards jumped. His body was found three months later.

In 1976, Alexander and three oth-

ers were indicted on murder charges in the case, but charges were dropped. Officially, the case was dropped because the indictment didn't mention a specific cause of death.

On behalf of Mrs. Salter and her three children, Dees has asked Freeh to release all documents pertaining to Alexander.

"Director Freeh has ordered an inquiry into whether or not anyone in the FBI attempted to intervene" in the Alexander case, FBI spokesman Mike Kortan told *The Birmingham News* Wednesday night.

"The FBI will respond as promptly as possible to Willie Edwards' family for information on the case," Kortan said.

Mrs. Salter said she believed at first that her husband may have simply taken off for California, "because he always wanted to go there." After his body was found, she realized he'd been killed, she said.

"But I learned the truth, and I just don't know what to say, or what to do, but I'm so glad that it's over and it's off my mind now and I know that he's resting, but it is hard," Mrs. Salter told Ms. Couric.

She said she felt sorry for Henry Alexander.

"I really think that living with so much guilt on your mind is the hardest thing in this world to do, but in the end, he had to tell somebody so they could tell me," Mrs. Salter said.

Mrs. Alexander said she admired Mrs. Salter. "She picked up the pieces and went on," Mrs. Alexander said. Mrs. Alexander said she slept better now that she has shared her husband's secret.

Mrs. Alexander told Ms. Couric that her hometown newspaper was writing about "all the money I'm supposed to be getting for telling my story." The *Montgomery Advertiser* reported Wednesday that television shows and movie producers would be willing to pay Mrs. Alexander thousands to talk to interview her or receive rights to film her story.

"It wasn't my story, it was Henry's story, and I have not received a dime from anybody," Mrs. Alexander said.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# Alexander admitted church bombing, brother says

From Staff and Press Reports

MONTGOMERY — The brother of a former Ku Klux Klansman implicated in a 1957 racial slaying, said his brother also had claimed he participated in the 1963 bombing of a Birmingham church that took the lives of four black girls.

Sonny Alexander told a Montgomery television station yesterday that his brother, Henry Alexander, had claimed he took part

in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church on Sept. 15, 1963.

Alexander said his brother, a former Klansman who died of lung cancer last year, also confessed to the killing of a black man in Elba in the mid-1950s. "They put him in a barrel and rolled him down a hill," Alexander told WSFA-TV. "They drove nails in the barrel and he was dead when they went to let him out at the bottom of the hill."

"It seems that a very few guys in the Klan did most of the dirty deeds and Alexander was one of them," said Morris Dees, director of the Southern Poverty Law Center, a group that monitors and opposes the Klan.

"We always knew that (convicted bomber Robert) Chambliss didn't bomb the Sixteenth Street Church alone," he added. "So it just seems logical that Alexander was another rat in that pack."

Sonny Alexander says his brother also admitted to being part of a group that killed Willie Edwards Jr. in 1957, but he says he doubts his brother confessed to the killing on his deathbed. Henry Alexander's widow, Diane Alexander, has claimed her husband confessed to the killing before he died.

But Sonny Alexander said his brother was only part of the group that forced Edwards to jump off a bridge. He said another man

was responsible for the actual killing.

"I don't believe he made a deathbed confession at all," said Sonny Alexander, who said he granted the interview to clear his family's name of the Edwards slaying.

Mrs. Alexander wrote to Edwards' family telling them of her husband's deathbed confession. Edwards' widow, Sarah Salter of Buffalo, N.Y., appeared with Mrs. Alexander on a national TV program Wednesday.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.Date: 9/10/93  
Edition: FRIDAYTitle: "ALEXANDER ADMITTED  
CHURCH BOMBING, BROTHER  
SAYS"Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

INDEX

152-352-SF/-128

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 10 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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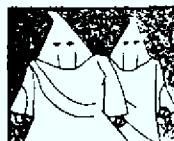
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# Klansman tied to church bombing

FBI officials from Washington will be in Montgomery next week to begin inquiry into the ever-widening case of a Ku Klux Klan man whose brother has implicated him in the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church 30 years ago.

Henry Alexander, 61, who died in December, has been linked by family members and court records to two racial murders, several bombings and a sniping incident. He has also been identified as an FBI informant.

It began when his common-law wife, Diane Alexander, told Montgomery television station WSFA that her terminally ill husband confessed in December that he had taken part in



the death of a black truck driver, Willie Edwards, 24, in 1957.

Edwards was forced at gunpoint to jump from a bridge into the Alabama River. His body was found three months later.

In a new twist, an older brother, identified by WSFA as "Sonny" Alexander, said Henry Alexander told him of other incidents, including:

- Being "involved" in the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church in Birmingham on Sept. 15, 1963, which killed four black girls.

- The torture murder of a black man in Coffee County in the 1950s; in that case, the victim was placed in a barrel in which nails were driven, then rolled down a hill.

Efforts to reach "Sonny" Alexander were

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state)

**THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.**

Date: 9/10/93  
Edition: FRIDAY

Title: "KLANSMAN TIED TO CHURCH BOMBING"

Character:  
or  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

DEX  
X  
JRC

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To FBIHQ

157-352-SF1-129

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SEP 10 1993	

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unsuccessful.

Bob Eddy, lead investigator for then-Attorney General Bill Baxley's probe into the Birmingham church bombing in 1977, said Alexander was not a prominent suspect in the case.

"I know of nothing that connects him with the church bombing," he said. "There were a lot of names and a lot of people questioned. But I'm not really surprised by anything a Klan member might say."

In October 1988, Gary A. Tucker, a terminally ill patient at the VA Hospital in Tuscaloosa, told FBI agents that he had bombed the Birmingham church and named an accomplice. But an inquiry by state and federal agents indicated the claim was full of contradictions and impossibilities. Tucker died in January 1989.

Morris Dees, founder and chief trial counsel

for the Southern Poverty Law Center, who is representing Edwards' survivors, said he wants to know at what point Alexander became an FBI informant. Dees said he was contacted by FBI officials in Washington, who want to talk to him when they come to Montgomery next week.

Dees said Alexander might have been involved in the Jan. 30, 1956, bombing of the home of Martin Luther King Jr., who had emerged as the leader of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Dees said there were also four Montgomery churches and two homes bombed on the night of Jan. 10, 1957, and a Klansman who was arrested gave a statement that Alexander was involved.

"All this was before Willie Edwards was killed," he said.

Alexander also was arrested and indicted on a charge of placing a bomb at King's home that did not detonate, as well as shooting a pistol into an integrated bus and wounding a pregnant black woman. But he was never convicted.

"We're looking into the allegation about the barrel killing," Dees said. "But I think it is also interesting about the claim that Alexander was involved in the Birmingham church bombing."

In 1976 Alexander and three other men were indicted as a result of Baxley's investigation on murder charges in Edwards' death.

The indictments were brought after Alexander's first wife, Edna, told of hearing her husband and other men bragging about making the truck driver jump into the river.

One of the indicted men, Raymond Britt, also gave a statement about the incident, saying Alexander led the expedition.

The cases were thrown out by a state judge, Frank Embry of Pell City, who said the cause of death was not cited.

Baxley said recently he was told at that time by the FBI that Alexander had been an informant for the agency and said he was asked to show "consideration."

At the time, Baxley had launched his investigation into the Birmingham church bombing case, and was leaning heavily on FBI documents and assistance to prepare the case, which resulted in a Klansman, Robert Chambliss of Birmingham, going to prison for murder.

Both of Alexander's wives said he was an FBI informant, but the FBI has neither confirmed nor denied that Alexander worked for the agency.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.Date: 9/12/93  
Edition: SUNDAY

Title: "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

# Explosion was followed by sound of breaking glass

By Frank Sikora  
News staff writer

He was sitting at a table, listening to someone reading the Scriptures when suddenly the chandelier crashed on the table.

Almost at the same split second, there was a boom followed by glass shattering.

James S. Goodson recalls that someone said:

"What happened?"

And someone else replied:

"A bomb."

Goodson, now 73, a retired school principal, was in the men's Sunday School class that morning of Sept. 15, 1963, when the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was bombed.

The historic church, a gathering place for civil rights rallies in the spring when Martin Luther King Jr. led marches, had been the target of threats in the past. But on that morning the threat blew into a deadly reality.

"I remember after we got up from

the table that everyone was trying to get out," Goodson said. "We went to the back door and I remember seeing the steps had been blown into a level position and I knew we couldn't get out that way." Then, he said, he and the other men, and some other adults and children who were in the main part of the church, began hurrying out the front door.

"There were people everywhere and police," he said. "That's what surprised me. I kept wondering how had the police got there so fast. They already had a rope thrown about the place."

It was then that he became aware that there were probably fatalities.

Four girls died in the blast, and about 20 other people were injured.

"My car was badly damaged," Goodson said. "I had parked in on the 16th Street side, right where the bomb had been placed."

The spot of the bomb was determined to be against or just under some concrete steps leading to a back door.

"I had walked right over it when I had arrived at about 9:30 or so," he said.

Ella Demand, one of the Sunday School teachers, had suffered a bad cut and Goodson remembers somehow getting the car to run.

"I was dragging a bumper and had to wire the door shut, but I got her to the hospital," he said.

He was there when two of the girls were brought in, sheets covering them.

"The doctor would raise it and say, 'DOA.'"

In 1977, Alabama Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley, who had been looking into the bombing for several years, got a murder conviction against a Ku Klux Klan member, Robert Chambliss, then 73.

Although the bombing caused some members to leave the church, Goodson still belongs.

It did bring a change in Birmingham, he said.

"White people who had been almost afraid to speak to me before would talk to me and say something like, 'I'm sorry about what happened at the church.' But it was such a terrible price."

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SEP 16 1993	

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NEWS STAFF PHOTO, FRANK SIKORA

Goodson now lives in the Birmingham area once known as 'Dynamite Hill.' He was in the men's Sunday school class when the bomb exploded.

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# From 1940-63, city had 33 racially-motivated bombings

The bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church was the worst in a string of Birmingham bombings that occurred during the civil rights movement, as white extremists tried to halt black's appeals for equality.

The home of attorney Arthur

Shores was bombed three times as was Bethel Baptist Church. In one of the Bethel bombings, Dec. 14, 1962, two infants in nearby houses were injured by flying glass. About 10 children were in the church rehearsing for a Christmas play when it detonated; none were hurt.

There were 33 racially motivated bombings that occurred in the city in the period 1940 to 1963.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

**THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.**

Date: 9/12/93  
Edition: SUNDAY

Title: "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

X

As a result of information gained by the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church bombing investigation, Alabama Atty. Gen. Bill Baxley was able to bring Georgia white supremacist J.B. Stoner to trial. He was convicted of bombing the Bethel Baptist Church in 1958. Other bombings, all unsolved, included:

■ The A.G. Gaston Motel in May 1963.

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FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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■ The home of A.D. King, the brother of Martin Luther King Jr.

■ The firebombing of the home of A.G. Gaston.

■ A "shrapnel" bomb that was discharged along Center Street on Sept. 25, 1963. A smaller charge went off, followed 15 minutes later by the larger explosive that shot out nails and clutch plates. No one was hurt. It was the last bombing of that era.

Whites, too, who had tried to bring about racial harmony, faced threats in those times.

Sid Smyer III was 10 in 1963 and has vivid memories of that trying year.

His grandfather, Sid Smyer, was president of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce and was one of the white leaders who had met with President Kennedy and with civil

rights groups to try to bring racial harmony to the city.

Said the younger Smyer: "I think one of the focal points of my growing up was the night we were awakened after midnight, and still in our pajamas, went to my grandfather's house where people had come and thrown bricks through his windows because they hated that he was a peacemaker, that he was part of a group that had done something."

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

# 'Still crying behind the altar'

The voices of four slain girls demand their killers be brought to justice, civil rights leaders say, 30 years after the bombing of their church.

By **Frank Sikora**  
News staff writer

**I**t happened at 10:22 a.m. on that balmy Sept. 15 in 1963, a Sunday that will be burned in Birmingham's memory for as long as the city stands.

A bomb exploded at the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, tearing away the lives of four black girls: Addie Mae Collins, 14; Denise McNair, 11; Carole Robertson, 14; and Cynthia Wesley, 14.

The four were in the women's lounge on the lower floor when the bomb detonated.

Now, 30 years have gone by, and the church pauses to remember those who died — and wonder once again if new information could surface to bring more suspects to face murder charges.

The FBI launched a massive

investigation in 1963 but made no arrests.

Then in 1977, Alabama Attorney General Bill Baxley obtained an indictment against Robert Chambliss, 73, a Klan member since the 1920s with a reputation for violence. In November of that year, a jury returned a guilty verdict against Chambliss.

Investigators said Chambliss, who died in prison in 1985, did not act alone and likely was aided by three or four other Klan members — perhaps more — as the bomb was set sometime during the predawn hours of Sept. 15.

Late last week, the specter of the bombing surfaced again when a brother of a Montgomery Klan member said the Klansman admitted to being "involved" in the act.

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/12/93  
Edition: SUNDAY

Title "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

X

Copy Sent  
To FBIHQ

157-352-SF1-132

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"Sonny" Alexander said his brother Henry Alexander, 61, who died of lung cancer in December, told him he was involved in the Birmingham church bombing and other violent acts, including the murder of Montgomery truck driver Willie Edwards and an unknown black man in Elba.

Edwards was abducted and made to jump from a bridge into the Alabama River.

The Elba man was placed in a barrel that was spiked with nails; the barrel was rolled down a hill. The man died, the brother said.

Henry Alexander has been identified as an FBI informant.

The latest revelations about Alexander have brought new calls for a reopening of the church-bombing case as well as a look at the Montgomery and Elba cases.

The Rev. Abraham Woods, president of the Birmingham Chapter of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, said that even though 30 years have passed, the horror of the bombing demands the case be reopened.

"I think what Baxley did was good and commendable," he said, "but it was just the tip of the iceberg. The blood of those little girls is still crying behind the altar. 'How long? How long?' As long as this case is not completely solved and there are perpetrators of this horrendous act at large, Alabama is going to have a black eye."

"When I first heard about the deathbed confessions in Montgomery, I became hopeful that some revelation will be made about the church, and justice can take its course and seek to prosecute."

### **Dees promises probe**

Morris Dees, founder and chief trial counsel of the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, who is representing the Edwards family, said there should be another investigation of the church bombing.

"I think there is enough smoke out there that you need to look for fire," he said.

Dees said earlier probes into the church bombing revealed a possible Montgomery link.

"It would seem logical to me for the Klan to get people out of Birmingham who would not be as easy to track," he said. "Alexander had plenty of experience. There were four churches bombed in Montgomery, and a Klansman made a statement that Alexander was involved."

Dees said he is also curious about the tie between Alexander and another FBI informant, Gary Thomas Rowe, who lived in Jefferson County during the 1960s.

"We know that Gary Thomas Rowe was a friend of Alexander's," he said.

Rowe, who was active in a Birmingham KKK unit, was riding in a car with three other men in 1965 when shots were fired that killed a white civil rights activist, Viola Liuzzo of Detroit. He became the chief witness in a federal court case in which the other three men were convicted of violating Mrs. Liuzzo's civil rights.

After serving prison terms, two of the Klansmen said that Rowe had fired shots at the woman. In 1978, a Lowndes County grand jury returned a murder indictment against him, but U.S. District Judge Robert Varner dismissed the charge, saying too much time had elapsed.

### **Rowe saw Chambliss**

Dees said he once took a statement from Rowe about KKK violence and asked him about the Saturday night before the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist. He said Rowe told him he was riding around the streets of Birmingham and saw Chambliss and other Klansmen riding about.

"That seems odd to me that Rowe would just happen to be out riding around that night," he said.

The original FBI investigation, which included Birmingham police reports, revealed that the night of Sept. 14, 1963, was active in the downtown part of the city.

There was a KKK motorcade through the streets, which required a police presence. Later, around midnight, a caller said a bomb had been placed at a downtown motel. Police were dispatched to the site.

It was later determined by state investigators that the activity was a diversionary tactic to draw police patrols from Sixteenth Street Baptist.

Bob Eddy, the lead investigator in Birmingham for Baxley, said he believes the probe was centered on the right people.

"I thought the case was solved, although there were others involved," he said. "We had the names of other suspects. But we didn't have the strong evidence we needed to go after them."

He said Alexander's name was not prominently mentioned in the Birmingham case.

Eddy said he feels that one day some of those who took part may come forth to clear their consciences.

"I think it's going to take a deathbed confession or a real change of heart by these individuals," he said.

### Conspiracy assumed

Jefferson County Circuit Judge Art Hanes Jr., who defended Chambliss, said it was always clear that more than one person was involved.

"I've never heard of this Alexander fellow," he said. "But I suppose anything is possible. During the trial, Chambliss had always maintained he was innocent, but with every passing day, I personally believe he was guilty."

In Washington, D.C., John Kundts, supervisory special agent in the FBI's press office, said the agency has not prepared a response to last week's allegations about the Birmingham church.

There are no federal laws pertaining to murder except on federal properties, and civil rights statutes expire after five years in most cases.

In earlier statements, the new FBI Director Louis J. Freeh ordered the agency to inquire into the Edwards case "as to whether anyone in the FBI attempted to intervene on behalf of a suspect in a state murder case in Alabama in the 1970s."

Freeh also said that the agency will respond to requests from the Edwards family about the case.

Kundts said the agency is responding in part because of reports in the press.

Alexander is not the first dying man who claimed a part in the bombing of the Birmingham church. In 1988 Gary A. Tucker, a Walker County truck driver, told FBI agents he had been the bomber, and named an alleged cohort. But the agency said his story was fabricated and full of inconsistencies.

Jack Shows, who headed Baxley's investigative unit in Montgomery, said bombing cases are difficult to prove, and cases that are old are more so.

"A lot of the people responsible are probably dead," he said, "and so are some witnesses."

Eddy added, "You have to remember that 25 or 30 years ago we didn't have the forensic expertise we now have. I found the big problem is that after so many years, people can't remember some details. They remember something taking place, but they can't remember when. Memories are blunted by time."



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Firefighters search rubble in basement of church.



NEWS FILE PHOTO

Sept. 15, 1963: Stunned churchgoers learn the extent of their tragedy.



NEWS FILE PH

This plaque in church basement honors memory of four slain girls.



NEWS FILE PHOTOS

Robert Chambliss, the only man brought to trial in the bombing, shown in 1963, left, and 1983.

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(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.Date: 9/12/93  
Edition: SUNDAY

Title: "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing:

# Working toward justice

By Mike Harper

I was a 16-year-old returning to Birmingham from a weekend at a church camp on the Sunday afternoon of Sept. 15, 1963.

I have vivid memories of hearing on the radio the news of the bombing of the Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Now, in my 46th year, that event continues to stand as a major turning point in my life and, in a real sense, the beginning of my adulthood.

I was a senior at West End High School that fall. The city was in turmoil and my school, along with Graymont and Ramsay, became the first three in the Birmingham school system to become desegregated.

Much has changed since that tumultuous time 30 years ago. In many ways our city is more whole, more just, and more complete because of the growing, if grudging, acceptance of our racial diversity. Needless to say, however, racial justice is still a distant goal for us.

Ours is a beautiful city, graced with talented and skillful

residents. In our early days we became known as "The Magic City" because of our industrial promise and quick growth.

In more recent days a number of us have sought to help Birmingham be known for a different kind of magic.

The Metropolitan Area Justice Interfaith Committee, or MAJIC, was formed earlier this year as an interfaith and biracial committee of religious leaders and lay people committed to strengthening our community, especially in the areas of racial and economic justice.

We initially came together at the time of the heightened community tensions caused by the federal investigation of Mayor Richard Arrington, the Los Angeles riots after the Rodney King case, and the Skinhead murder of a homeless man in our community.

Many will remember the real sense of dread and uncertainty in the air during the unfolding of those events.

We wanted then, as we seek now, to enable people of faith with a common commitment to justice to have not only a place to stand in crisis, but an ongoing vehicle for reflecting on and working in the area of justice. The hope is to do that before another crisis arises.

Our initial gathering was a worship service at the downtown First Presbyterian Church in early May. Our theme was "Remembering Our Past and Claiming Our Future." We

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SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 16 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

157-352-SF1-133

shared in an interfaith worship service of prayer, promise, and reconciliation. We sought to lift up and affirm the various "healing promises" that we share in our many faith traditions.

In response to that event, more than 100 groups and individuals have joined MAJIC and committed themselves to pursuing a more just community for all.

Our membership is varied. It includes representatives from the United Methodist Church, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Roman Catholic Church, Greater Birmingham Ministries, Temple Emanu-El, the African Methodist Episcopal Church, the United Church of Christ, Clergy That Care, the NAACP, the Southern Baptist Convention, the Southern Organizing Committee, the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Unitarian Church, the National Baptist Convention, and the Episcopal Church. Our hope is that many other groups will be added, along with interested individuals.

In the meantime, we are seeking to be faithful to the call of justice and to live out that faithfulness in the

city we love, a city endowed with much rich symbolism in the crucial areas of human relationships and social justice.

MAJIC wants to provide an ongoing forum for the responsible discussion of community issues that have an impact on the diverse communities of Birmingham. And we want to promote active, reliable ways for concerned groups and individuals to respond.

My personal hope for the future is that we have no more days like that tragic Sept. 15 of long ago.

One way to ensure that reality is to strengthen and broaden and deepen the work of MAJIC in the days ahead.

Won't you join us?



NEWS FILE PHOTO

The damage 30 years ago at Sixteenth Street Baptist.

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BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.Date: 9/15/93  
Edition: WEDNESDAY

Title: "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office: BH

Indexing

# Pastor: Church doesn't want to reopen case

By William C. Singleton III

Post-Herald Reporter

Birmingham civil rights leader Rev. Abraham Woods says justice demands that the bombers of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church be brought to trial.

But the church's current pastor, Rev. Christopher Hamlin, says the church has little interest in reopening the case, which netted the conviction of one Ku Klux Klansman but is believed to have involved several other people.

Hamlin said that many members of his congregation are not interested in another investigation which would force them to relive the events of that terrible night.

The church in downtown Birmingham observes the 30th anniversary of the Sept. 15, 1963, bombing that killed four young girls on the heels of recent revelations linking another Klansman to the bombing.

The brother of Klansman Henry Alexander, who died in December, said Alexander admitted involvement in several racially motivated crimes, including the bombing of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church.

Alexander's wife said he also admitted participating in the death of black truck driver Willie Edwards, who was forced to jump off a bridge into the Alabama River in 1957.

The only conviction in the church bombing came in 1977, when a jury found Klansman Robert Chambliss guilty of murder. Chambliss died in prison in 1985.

But then-Attorney General Bill Baxley had difficulty obtaining FBI information to build cases against others who may have been involved in the fatal bombing.

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157-352-SF1-134

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 16 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

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## Bombing observances

Sixteenth Street Baptist Church, at 1530 Sixth Avenue North, has organized a slate of events commemorating the Sept. 15, 1963, church bombing that killed four black girls. The observance started Sunday. These are the remaining events scheduled this week:

- **Wednesday** — 7:30 a.m., Interfaith Prayer Breakfast at Sixteenth Street Baptist, sponsored by Community Affairs Committee of Operation New Birmingham; 10:15-10:22 a.m., church bells around the city will ring; 10:22 a.m., moment of silence in remembrance of Addie Collins, Denise McNair, Carole Robertson and Cynthia Wesley; noon, brown bag series (storytelling) at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; 7 p.m., discussion on "The Economic Perspective for the Twentieth Century"
- **Thursday** — noon, brown bag series at the Birmingham Civil Rights Institute; 7 p.m., Interfaith Unity Memorial and Community Worship with guest speaker William Gray III, executive director of the United Negro College Fund, Magic City Boys Choir also to be featured; Academy of Fine Arts Inc. is co-sponsoring the event
- **Friday** — noon, brown bag series, "A Historical Reflection of Sixteenth Street Baptist Church"; 7 p.m., youth night and town meeting.
- **Saturday** — noon to 6 p.m., Family Day at Kelly Ingram Park

Source: Sixteenth Street Baptist Church

Woods, president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference's Birmingham chapter, has a different view.

"This case will not be resolved until those other participants are brought to the bar of justice," he said. "It bothers me that there has not been a concerted effort to do that. The name of Alabama needs to be cleared."

Baxley did not return calls to his office.

FBI agents were scheduled to arrive in Montgomery yesterday to investigate Alexander's connection to Edward's death.

Many doubt Alexander's confession. Jack Shows, an investigator for Baxley during the bombing probe, said the state investigated Alexander's possible part in the bombing but found nothing linking him to the scene.

Morris Dees, founder of Southern Poverty Law Center, is also skeptical.

"We know that Henry Alexander was indicted for bombing black churches in Montgomery," Dees said. "I think that he's confused about which church bombing."

Dees, however, wants to know Alexander's involvement with the FBI. He believes that the agency's network of informants could have thwarted the Birmingham church bombing case.

Dees said Baxley told him that the FBI discouraged him from pursuing Alexander because he was one of their top informants.

"If he (Alexander) was a paid informant with the FBI and they were aware of all these (crimes he committed), I want to know," he said.

A FBI representative in Washington said the bureau does not comment on pending cases.

Bringing additional conspirators in the church bombing to justice may not accomplish anything after 30 years, Hamlin said.

"If there's anyone else who shared in the bombing of Sixteenth Street, they're up in age and I don't know what it would do other than to say, yes, we know these people were involved," Hamlin said.

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BIRMINGHAM POST-HERALD  
BIRMINGHAM, AL.

Date: 9/16/93

Edition: THURSDAY

Title: "BAPBOMB"

Character:  
or 157-352  
Classification:  
Submitting Office.BH

# Remembrance

## City marks 30th anniversary of church bombing

By William C. Singleton III

Post-Herald Reporter

Birmingham leaders paused yesterday to remember the four girls killed in a racially motivated bombing at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church 30 years ago.

Blacks and whites, politicians and voters met at the downtown church at 1530 Sixth Ave. North for an interfaith unity service and breakfast. Gov. Jim Folsom and other politicians and community leaders attended. Birmingham-area civil rights leader Abraham Woods challenged the state to reopen the case and bring to the "bar of justice" those involved in the crime.

Ku Klux Klansman Robert Chambliss was convicted in 1977 of murder in the church bombing that killed Addie Mae Collins, Carole Robertson, Cynthia Wesley, all 14, and Denise McNair, 11. Several other people are believed to have been involved in the bombing. Chambliss died in prison in 1985.

Rev. Christopher Hamlin, Sixteenth

Street's current pastor, said members of the church have no desire to reopen the case.

Woods said, however, that "maybe the rest of you are ready to push it under the rug." But I'm not ready to do that."

He challenged Folsom to back such a push. Afterwards, Folsom, who was applauded for removing the Confederate flag from atop the state Capitol, said he favored reopening the case. But Folsom also said the decision is up to Attorney General Jimmy Evans.

Church bells tolled around the city at 10:22 a.m., the time of the church explosion.

Officials recalled the bombing and how it reshaped the way Birmingham residents viewed racial discrimination.

Birmingham City Councilman Eddie Blankenship pointed to the renovation of Kelly Ingram Park, which features symbols of the civil rights era, and the new Birmingham Civil Rights Institute as tes-

taments to the importance of remembering the city's past.

Folsom said the state needs to cast off those negative images and move forward to building understanding between all Alabamians.

Rodney Max, a representative of the Coalition Against Hate Crimes, said the hatred that led to the killing of the four girls still exists. He pointed to the April 18, 1992, slaying of a homeless black man by white skinheads.

"We all must play a role in defeating this menace of hate," he said.

Lawton Higgs, co-chairman for the Metro Area Justice Interfaith Committee, a group committed to racial reconciliation among clergy, said he was once blind and deaf to the hurt caused by the bombing. "I did not see the pain, I did not hear the cry," he said. But the minister who seeks to start an integrated church downtown said, "God has used the suffering of this city to open my eyes. ... God has used the suffering of this city to open the eyes of many."

157-352-SF1-135

SEARCHED	INDEXED
SERIALIZED	FILED
SEP 16 1993	
FBI - BIRMINGHAM	

JG/JRC

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Karim Shamsi-Basha/Post-Herald

Josephine Harris of Uniontown prays during a service at Sixteenth Street Baptist Church as a part of the observance of the deadly bombing of the church 30

years ago. Mary K. Bush, president of M.K. Bush & Co. in Washington, was the speaker of the program, titled 'An Economic Perspective for the Twentieth Century.'